BAND OF THE HAWK

MANGA DIVISION LEADER: GATSU

"IN THIS WORLD, SOME PEOPLE BORN ARE LIKE KEYS THAT MOVE THE WORLD AND EXIST HAVING NO CONNECTION TO THE SOCIAL HIERARCHY ESTABLISHED BY MAN."

FOUNDER: GRIFFISU

JETS COMICS

ベルセルク㉒

三浦建太郎

ベルセルク 22

CONTENTS

千年帝国の鷹篇（ミレニアム・ファルコン）　聖魔戦記の章

ほころぶ世界 ……9

剣の丘の再会 ……31

獣剣士対黒い剣士 ……51

不変 ……73

戦記の序章 ……95

クシャーン猛襲 ……113

闘（とき）の風① ……135

闘の風② ……157

雪と炎と／前篇 ……179

雪と炎と／後篇 ……201

TRANSLATION NOTE:
BEGINNING WITH THIS VOLUME THE MANGA USES "FALCON" IN PLACE OF "HAWK". I'M NOT SURE WHY THEY DID THIS, BUT YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS TO AVOID CONFUSION.

JETS COMICS

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

MILLENNIUM FALCON: CRUSADERS
THE TATTERED WORLD

WHO BEGAN TO NOTICE FIRST.

THEY SAY IT WAS THE CHILDREN

I TELL YOU THIS ALL THE DAMN TIME, BUT DON'T GO RUNNING OFF INTO WOODS!
YOU MIGHT GET EATEN BY WOLVES, AND IF NOT THEM, THE KUSHARN BEEN...
FAIRIES ...
HOLD IT, NICO! IF YOU GET YERSELF LOST, I'M THE ONE GETS PUNISHED.
LOOK !
FAIRIES !
SEE ?
EH?
DON'T THIS PLACE FEEL SORTA WEIRD?
I MEAN ...
MAN, THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT YOU FOLLOWING US AROUND!
DON'T, TOM!
GIMME A BREAK!
MM?
BUT I GUESS I CAN SORT OF SEE WHY HE MIGHT THINK THAT.

WEIRD HOW?
YEAH, SURE DO.
WHAT? YOU THINK SO TOO?

?
CAN'T SAY THIS GOOD ...
LIKE SOME-THING...
MM, MM ...

NAH ...
I MEAN, WHEN WE WAS TINY THE PLACE JUST FELT DIFFERENT.
I MEAN, JUST LOOK AROUND US...
DANG IT, DIFFER-ENT HOW?
I MEAN, WE BEEN COMIN' TO THIS WOODS SINCE FOREVER ...
LIKE WHAT?
WAS IT LIKE THIS THEN?
DON'T YOU FEEL NOTHIN'?
.....

IT'S LIKE A FOREST IN A DREAM...

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
WIND.
IT'S OBVIOUSLY WIND.
DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMEONE LAUGH?
TH-THAT'S ENOUGH NOW!
FAIRIES!
クス
クス
クス
ケケケ
クス
クス
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
クス
クス
クス
ゲゲ
キキキ
クク
クク
イヒヒ
ヒヒヒ
ゲラ
ゲラ
ゲラ
……!!

IT STOPPED...
IT...
NOW WHAT?
N...
!
LOOK AT THAT!

STOPPED BEING SILENT.

SLOWLY, PLACES THAT HAD BEEN SILENT FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG

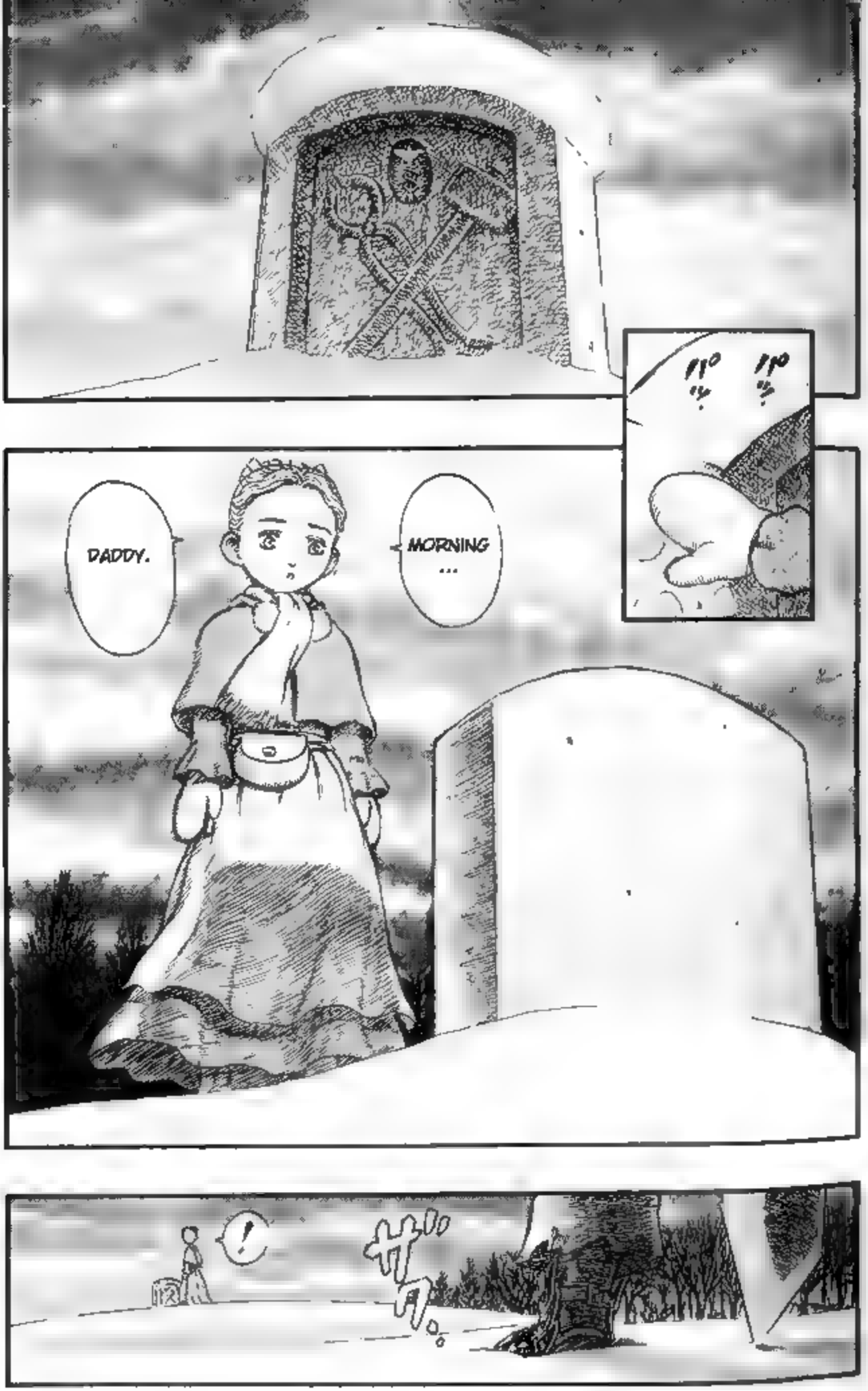
IN THE HOLLOWS OF THE TREES, IN SHADOW OF THE LEAVES, IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE WAVES, IN THE WHISPERS OF THE WIND, IN THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL, IN THE DARKNESS OF THE EAVES...

IT'S A FOREST DEVIL!

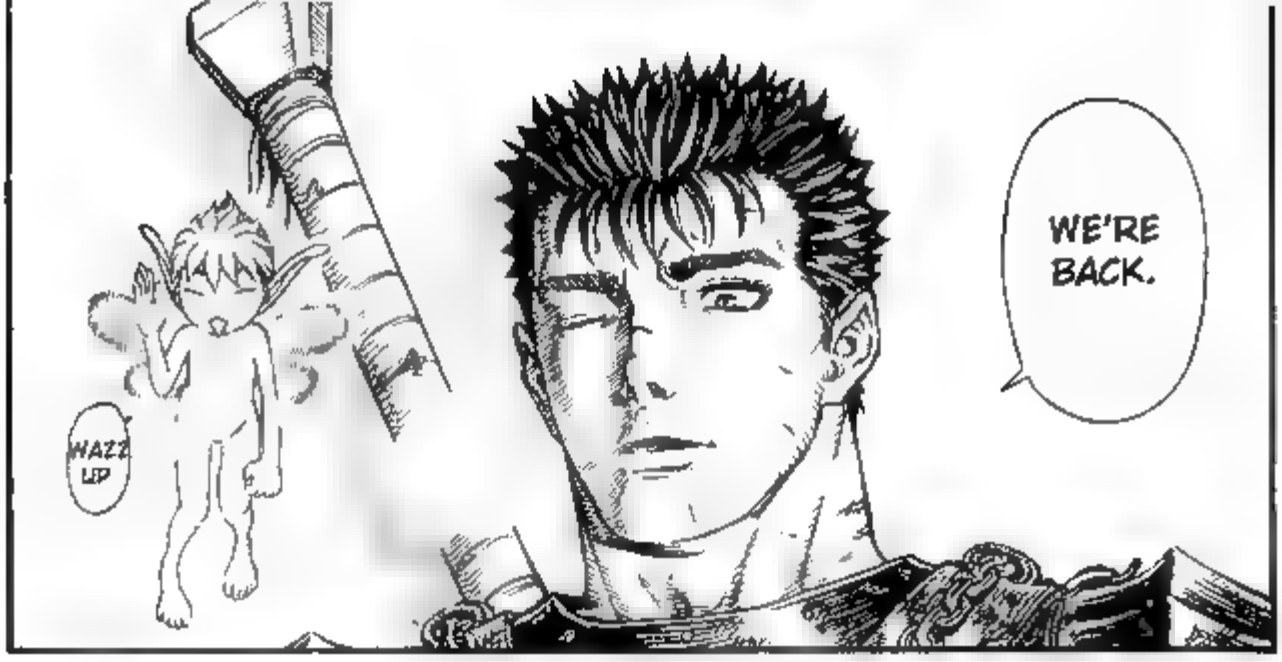
MONSTER!

SLOWLY ...

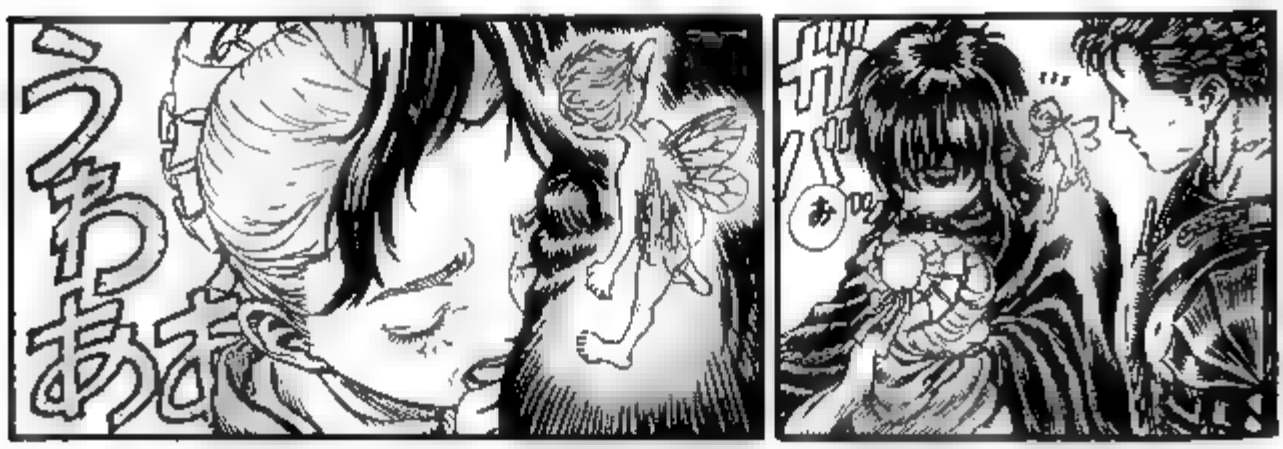
IN THE SILENCE, SOMETHING BEGAN TO BREATH.
FOR ALL THE WORLD AS IF IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THAT WAY ALL ALONG...
LIKE THE STORIES THE OLD FOLKS ALWAYS TELL THE CHILDREN...


DADDY.
MORNING ...

あー!!


WE'RE BACK.
HAZZ UP

CASKA ...
GATTS ...
うーん


うわあ
おっ

WE WERE TOO LATE.
I SEE ...
あああ
……

IT HAPPENED RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT.
HE MET YOU BEFORE HE DIED SO HE DIDN'T NEED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
HE SAID ...
NAH ...
..... SORRY
AND HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HIM DEAD.
WHAT YOU GONNA DO NOW?
SO ....
YOU AREN'T GONNA TAKE HER OFF WITH YOU, RIGHT?
YOU FOUND CASKA! IT'S ALL MY FAULT YOU HAD TO GO LOOK FOR HER...
BUT THIS IS GREAT!

LIVE HERE ...
LET'S ALL LIVE HERE TOGETHER.
STAY HERE.
WE CAN FIX UP THAT OLD MINE TILL IT'S LIKE A HOME AND LIVE IN THERE!
THEN CASKA'LL BE FINE!
SEE, IF YOU'RE HERE...

SHE WON'T EVER RUN AWAY AGAIN.
IF YOU LIVE HERE AND BE NICE TO HER...

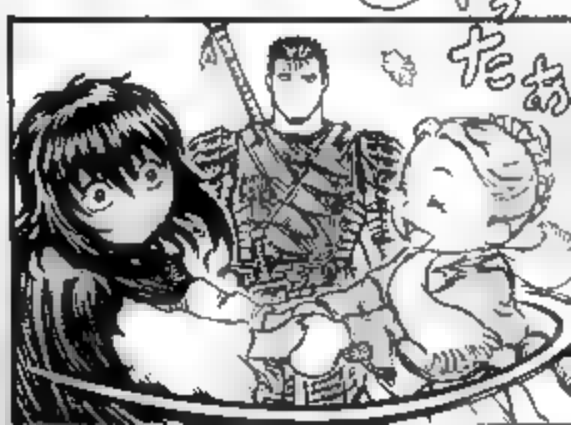
.....

!
MM, MAYBE ...

I'M TORN ON THIS...

YOU SURE BOUT THAT? MADE UP YOUR MIND AWFUL QUICK...

YOU PROMISE?
REAL LY?
REALLY, REALLY, REALLY ?


やった

I STILL CAN'T...
WHEN CASKA CALLED ME BACK...NO, WHEN SHE CALLED ME BACK WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SWINGING MY SWORD...
BUT WHAT LOOKED LIKE A HUMAN.
HE APPEARED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, AND HE WASN'T A DEMON...
AS IF HE'D BEEN YANKED FROM BEFORE INTO THE PRESENT UNCHANGED.
I FORGOT TO KILL HIM.
I LOOKED AT HIM, AND FOR A SECOND...

IS WHAT GALLS ME.
AND THAT ...
MY JOURNEY WAS AIMLESS ...
SOMETIMES FOLLOWING SOME SUSPICIOUS GOSSIP OR A FEELING IN MY BRAND...
NO IDEA WHERE HE WAS.
NOT EVEN SURE IF HE WAS IN THIS WORLD, I CHASED HIS SHADOW THROUGH THE HORDES OF LOST, DEAD SOULS.
BUT NOW HE'S IN THE SAME WORLD AS ME.
ON THE SAME LAND THAT LIES BENEATH MY FEET.
WHERE MY SWORD CAN REACH HIM.

OH,
I ALMOST FORGOT, WE GOT COMPANY.
COMPANY ?
.....
YEAH.
SEEMS TO BE SOMEONE RICKERT USED TO KNOW.
THEY WENT OFF TO THE CEMETERY OF SWORDS.
YOU CAN'T EVEN BE SURE HE'S A MAN.
VERY PRETTY, SO PRETTY...
LONG SILVER-WHITE HAIR...
MAYBE YOU KNOW HIM TOO.
HE SAID HE WAS A FRIEND FROM WHEN RICKERT WAS A SOLDIER.

LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A FAIRY TALE.

JETS COMICS

ベルセルク

22

三浦建太郎

ISBN4-592-13720-5

C9979 ¥505E

9784592137207

定価 本体505円+税

雑誌44318−73

1929979005054

断罪の塔"聖アルビオン寺院"倒壊後、クシャーンの包囲網を突破したガッツ・キャスカ・パックは烙印の宿命から逃れるため、鍛冶屋ゴドーの鉱洞に向かう。そこでガッツが出会ったのは復活したグリフィスであった。果たして彼は何を語るのか!? 千年帝国の鷹(ミレニアム・ファルコン)篇／聖魔戦記の章開始!／2001年12月発行。

BERSERK

白泉社

三浦建太郎の好評既刊

ベルセルク◆①～㉒巻
重厚なるストーリー 魅力あるキャラクター そして圧倒的な作画 読者の心と人生に強い衝撃と感動を必ず与える一大大河コミック!!

ジャパン◆原作／武論尊
現代の物質文明が失われた世界で果たして日本人は生きていくことができるのか?日本人を強烈に問い直すSFサバイバルコミック!

王狼◆原作／武論尊
時の壁を越え 13世紀のモンゴルに舞い降りた歴史学者・伊皮はジンギス・カンの支配する地で奴隷戦士として生き抜き戦っていた!!

王狼伝◆1巻原作／武論尊
"王狼"ジンギス・カンとして生きる決意をした伊皮。後世が狂わぬよう歴史を守る彼の前に、時の壁を越えて軍隊が出現する!!

画集ベルセルク◆
カバー・大型ポスターをはじめ全18点に及ぶ描き下ろしイラストを収録 今まで見たことのない、真のベルセルク・ワールドが広がる。

ベルセルクポストカードブック WAR CRY◆
カンツの熱い叫びが伝わってくる迫力の大判ポストカード32枚+特製ステッカーのセット 愛蔵用としてもギフトとしても最適の一品

ベルセルクビジュアル&ストーリー FILE◆
ゲーム版ベルセルクのために三浦建太郎が描きおろした大量の設定画やカラーイラストを残らず収録した読みごたえ見ごたえ十分な本。

白泉社文庫
王狼伝◆原作／武論尊

ジャパン◆原作／武論尊

ヤングアニマル特別編集
ベルセルク剣風伝奇完全解析書◆
TVアニメ「剣風伝奇ベルセルク」を徹底的に多目的に解説したパーフェクト・ブック!!

月2回刊・青年コミック誌
YOUNG ヤングアニマル
ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4金曜日発売

鷹の団全滅となった『蝕』から2年が過ぎた。フェムトに転生したグリフィスをはじめとするゴッド・ハンドとその使徒への復讐をめざす旅に出たガッツ。聖地・アルビオン寺院における怪異と惨劇は"蝕"を模したこととなり、グリフィスの受肉と現世への復活を果たした。その中でガッツはかろうじてキャスカを救い出したものの、グリフィスの復活を目にし、ガッツの心は大きく揺れるのだった。そして世界はこの辺境の地より生じた亀裂から形を崩し始めたのだった。

タイトルデザイン／ADOX
カバーデザイン／ZEN CORPORAT ON

BERSERK

BERSERK

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
I MEAN ...
NO ONE ELSE BUT GATTS AND CASKA CAME BACK THAT DAY.
JUDEAU ...
CORKUS ...
PIPPIN ...
NO ONE CAME BACK.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
GATTS WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING AND I'M TOO SCARED TO ASK.
I THOUGHT ...
THAT EVERY-THING ...
THAT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT.
WAS OVER.
BUT ...
YOU'RE ALIVE.
MEETING YOU AGAIN IS LIKE...
!?
!?

GATTS!

REUNION
ON THE HILL
OF SWORDS

GATTS ?
!?
W-WAIT...!

I COULD SEE IT IN YOUR EYES!
I WON'T! YOU WERE ABOUT TO KILL HIM!
LET GO, RICKERT!
IT'S OUR GRIFFITH!
IT'S GRIFFITH!
WHY?
.....!!

ど!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
?
IS NO LONGER THE GRIFFITH YOU KNEW.
THAT ...
THAT THING ...
NO!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
JUST LET GO!
YOU NEVER CHANGE.

BEFORE YOU TALK.
YOU ALWAYS SWING ...
THE SAME FACE...
NO ... IF ANY-THING ...
THE SAME SMILE...
YOU'RE LIKE YOU WERE WHEN WE FIRST MET.

THE SAME VOICE ...
TALKING TO ME!
WHY THE HELL DID YOU COME HERE?
"L"
TO SEE YOU.
WE SIMPLY DIDN'T HAVE A SECOND TO TALK TOGETHER.
THINGS AT THE TOWER ENDED UP RATHER ABRUPTLY

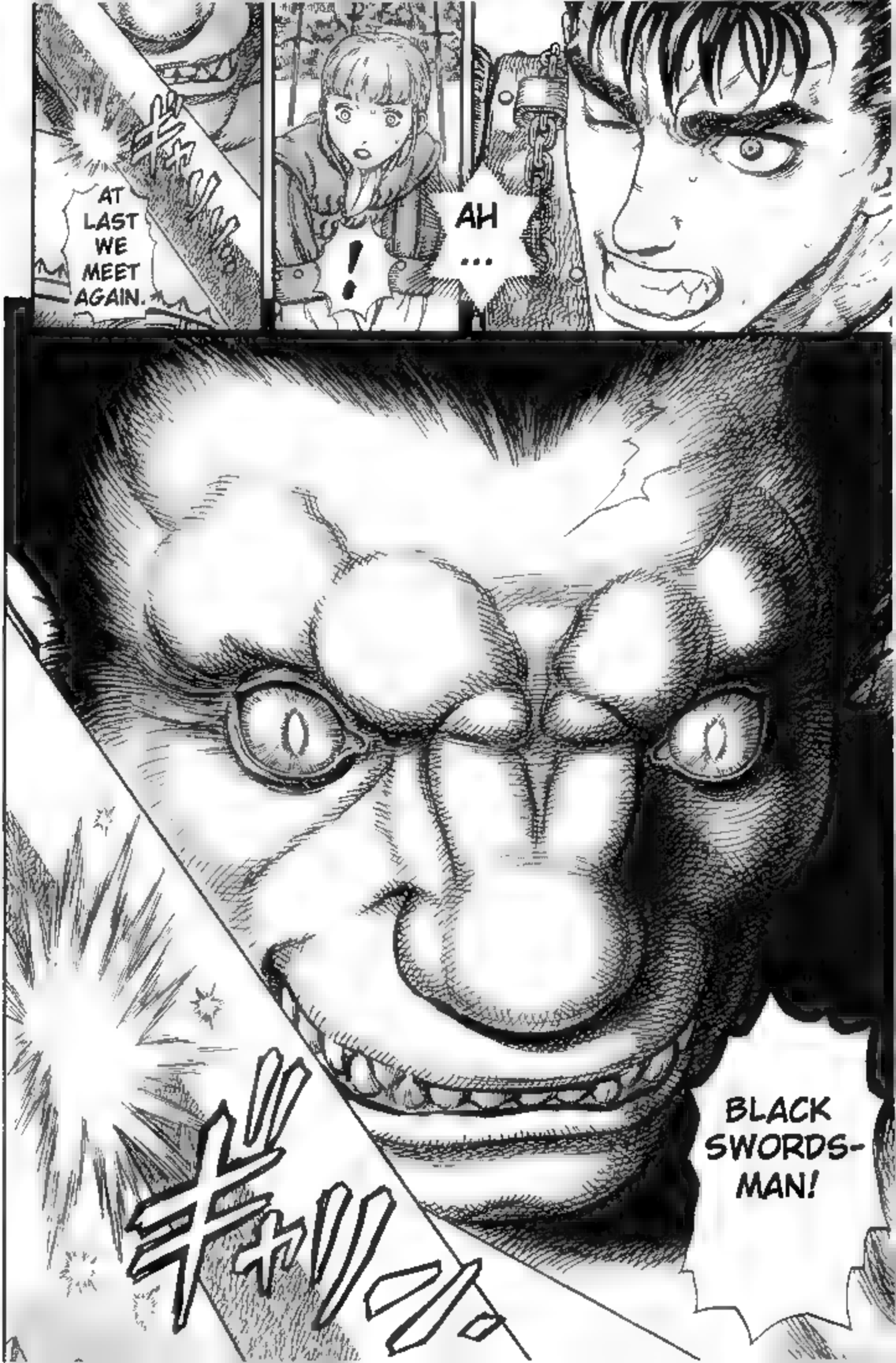
OUR BAND OF THE FALCON
GATHERED TOGETHER HERE.
I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WOULD BEFIT US.
NEVER SPEAK THAT NAME AGAIN!

AND SEE IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT COULD SWAY MY HEART.
TO STAND BEFORE YOU IN THIS NEW BODY.
I CAME TO MAKE CERTAIN.

THAT I...
AM FREE.
BUT IT SEEMS ...

NOTHING ?
EVERYONE YOU BETRAYED ...
ALL THAT YOU DID...
DON'T FEEL ONE THING?
AND YOU...

I ...
DO NOT BETRAY MY DREAM.
NOTHING MORE.


AT LAST WE MEET AGAIN.
AH ...
!
BLACK SWORDS-MAN!

ZODD
!?

?
WHAT'S WRONG, CASKA?

……うう

THIS FEELS LIKE...
……

あう！

THE BEAST SWORDSMAN VS.
THE BLACK SWORDSMAN

WHO IS THAT MAN?
HE STOPPED GATTS' SWORD?

WELL DONE, BOY!
YOU SEEM TO HAVE SURVIVED DESPITE MY PROPHECY!

FRIST
HE
HE

ゴゴゴゴ
GOOD GOD!
I CAN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON
G
....

SPLENDID! I RARELY MEET A HUMAN WITH A BODY AS GOOD AS YOURS!
I WANTED TO CROSS BLADES WITH YOU IN THIS FORM AND SEE WHAT SURVIVING DID FOR YOU.
WHY ARE YOU WITH GRIFFITH ?
WHY?
MY BUSINESS IS WITH HIM ALONE!
STEP ASIDE!

WE CARRY ON!
YOUR WORDS ARE IMPURE.
おお、お

HE DUCKED!
HE DODGED? THOSE REFLEXES ARE INHUMAN!

THIS POWER ...
IF I DIDN'T HAVE THIS SWORD I'D BE MINCE-MEAT!
HE'S STILL ONE HELL OF A MONSTER
IF I MISS ONCE I'LL BE CRUSHED!

ヒュウ
ズル

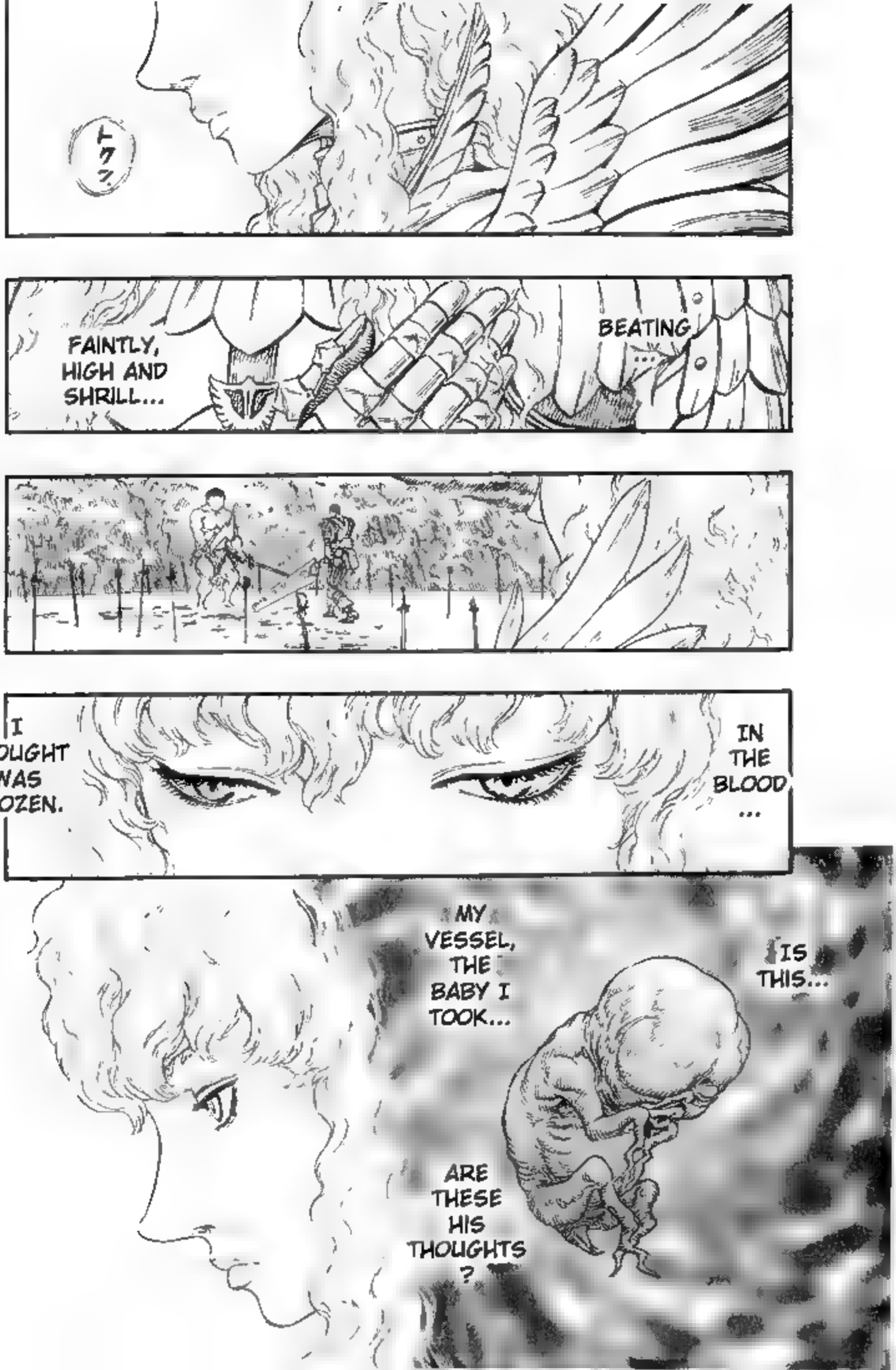
IF I BLINK EVEN ONCE HE'LL LAND ONE OF THOSE ON MY HEAD!
HE HASN'T CHANGED!
EVEN BLOCKING THEM IS MAKING MY BONES CREAK! IT'S LIKE I'M NOT PARRYING AT ALL!
NOW I CAN FIGHT!
BUT ...
JUST TO GET TO HIM...
I'VE STRUGGLED THROUGH COUNTLESS NIGHTS...

AND YOU'RE IN MY WAY!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS ON ANY BATTLEFIELD!
THIS IS TREMENDOUS!
TO USE THAT HUGE SWORD LIKE THIS...
HE'S GROWN STRONGER THAN I COULD EVEN IMAGINE!
THIS FURY IS ALL TOWARDS GRIFFITH? WHY?
BUT THIS RAGE...
THAT'S MINE!
!

TRYING TO OVER-WHELM ME?
OH NO, HE'S USING BOTH HANDS!

WHAT A FIGHT!
.....!!
BUT UNDER FIRE, SPYING A SWORD LYING IN THE SNOW AND USING IT LIKE THAT... GATTS' WITS ARE INCREDIBLE!
THAT OTHER MAN DIDN'T WASTE A MOMENT AFTER HIS SWORD WAS DAMAGED TO SWITCH TO FIGHTING WITH TWO SWORDS, SO HE'S AMAZING TOO...
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SKIRT DEATH THIS CLOSELY!
ANY SLIP IS DEATH ...


トクン
FAINTLY, HIGH AND SHRILL...
BEATING...
I THOUGHT WAS FROZEN.
IN THE BLOOD...
MY VESSEL, THE BABY I TOOK...
IS THIS...
ARE THESE HIS THOUGHTS?

トクン

IMMUTABLE

BERSERK

THE POWER TO FIGHT AND ESCAPE THE APOSTLES ...
FOR A HUMAN BODY TO SURVIVE THE ECLIPSE...
MAG-NIFI-CENT.
BUT THIS KUSHARN HORSE SWORD IS NO MATCH FOR THAT DEMONIC SWORD OF YOURS.
I THOUGHT I WOULD ONLY DANCE WITH YOU A MOMENT...
AND YOU USE IT FITTINGLY.
IT IS A SPLENDID BLADE!
BUT WE'RE JUST BEGINNING.
TASTED ENOUGH
I HAVE NOT YET ...

Z.... ZODD!?
TH-THAT MAN IS NOSFERATU ZODD!?
ビリ、ビリ、
……!!
I HAVE NOT HAD MY FILL!

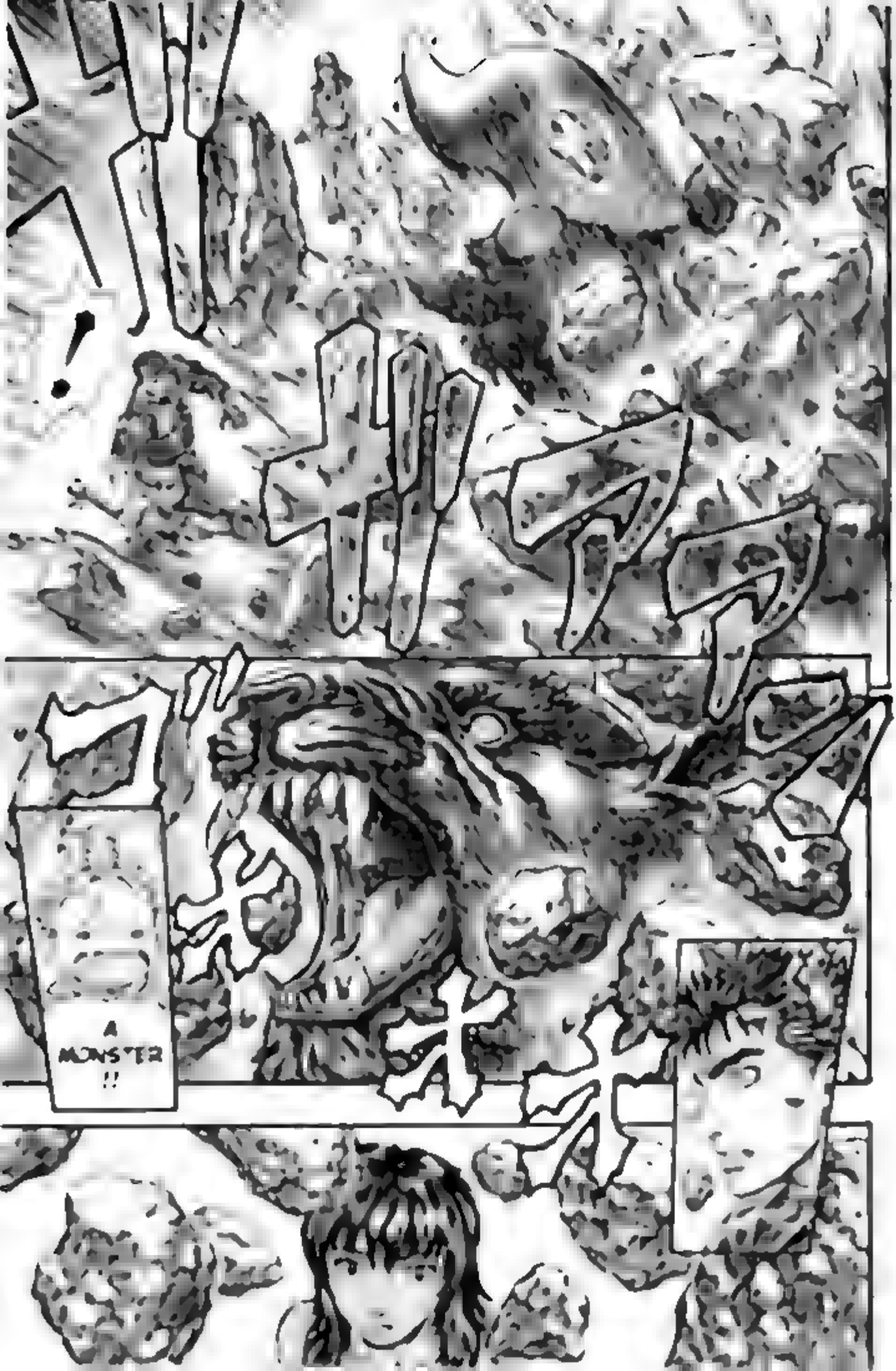
WHY?

GATTS!

THAT'S ...!
!
MASTER GODO'S MINE!

DON'T GO THERE
WAIT, CASKA !
!!
YOU IDIOT!
GO BACK !
ドン!!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE ?
GATTS !
?

う？
う？


!
A MONSTER !!

キャスカ!!
CASKA!

ドドオオーン!!
カチャ
ガバ
CAS
...
CASKA!
.....
!!
ガバッ

あ、あ…
う
く
ひ
ドカ

NO
...

ゴルルル…
THAT'S ENOUGH.
!
LET'S GO.

W...
ゴウウウ
ゴゴゴ

WHERE ARE...?
WAIT!
I THOUGHT I SAID.
I WILL ...
TAKE MY OWN COUNTRY.

AND NOTHING ...
WILL CHANGE THAT.

PREFACE TO THE WAR

NOTHING ...
WILL CHANGE THAT.

NOTHING ...
うわ!
RICKERT.
IS OVER.
YOU MAY CHOOSE TO HATE ME.
WHEN YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ...
YOU CHOOSE TO CONTINUE CHASING OUR DREAM...
BUT ...
IF INSTEAD ...

I HAVE NO REASON TO REFUSE YOU.
W-WAIT ...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
WHAT TRUTH?

NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT, HUNH?
GET DOWN!
STOP THAT!
リヴェルケ!!
ガ!!!!

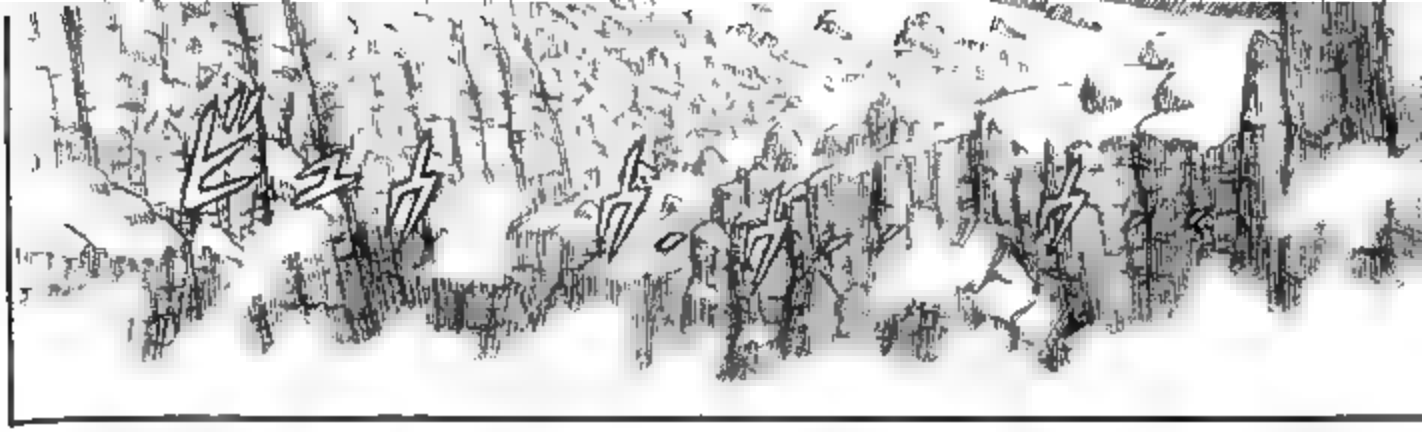
YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS...

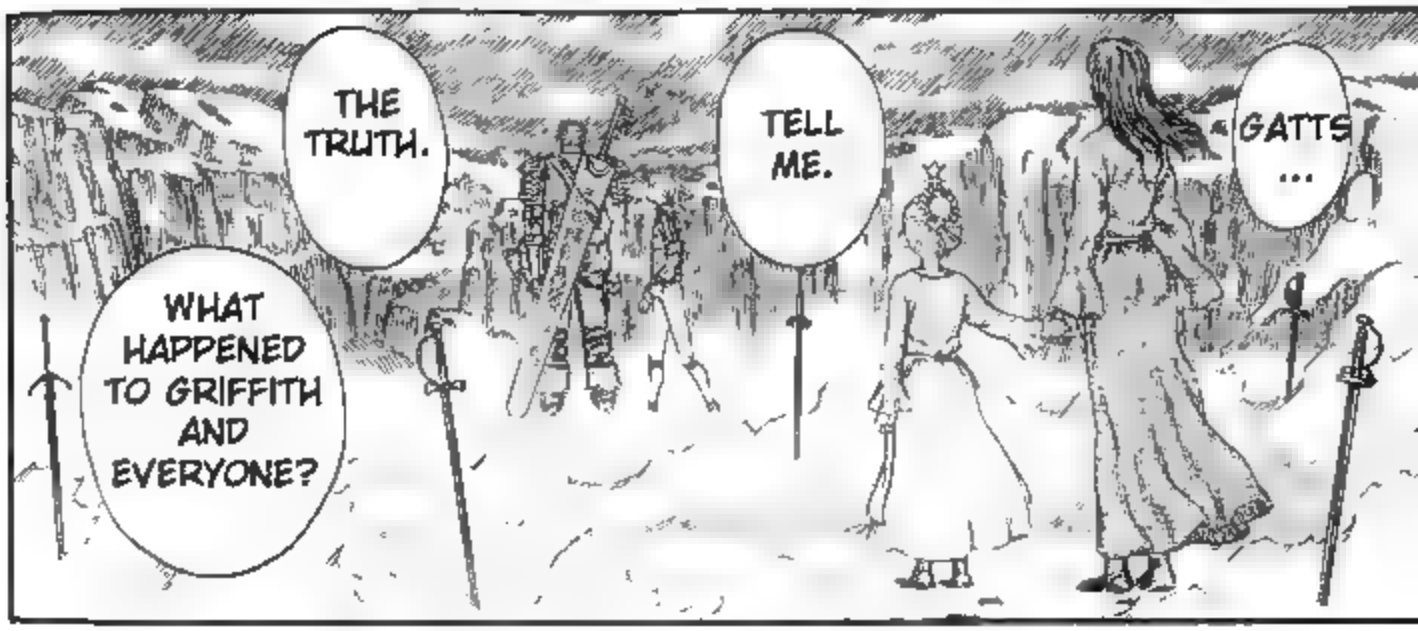
THIS IS WHAT I WILL DO.

AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT?

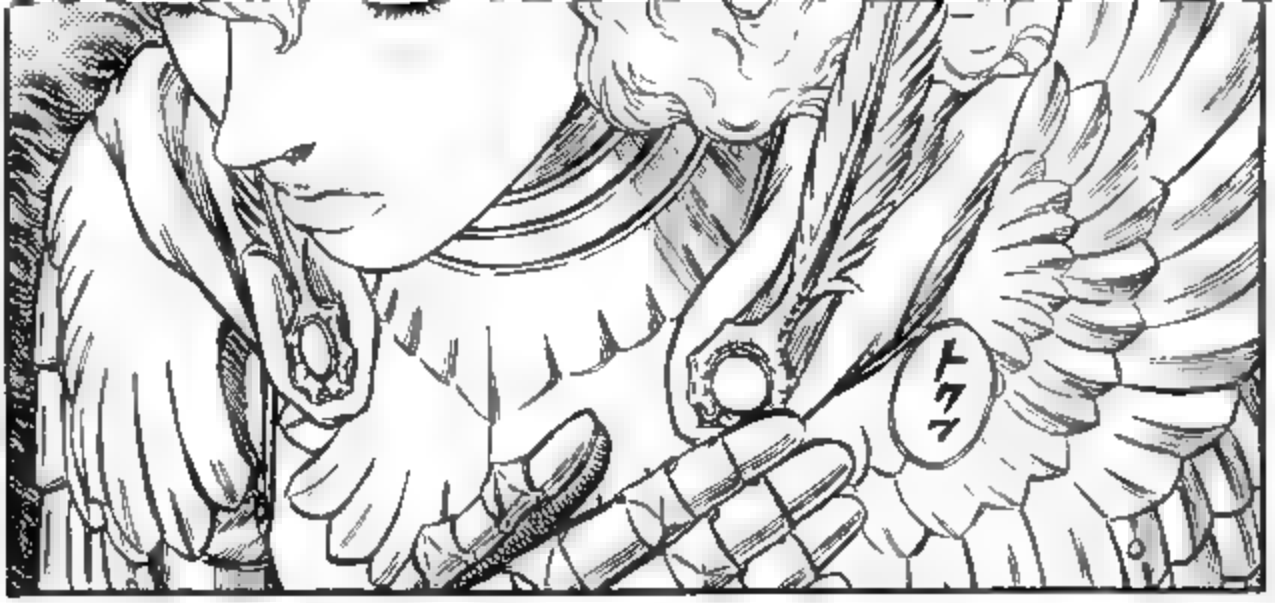
THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS...

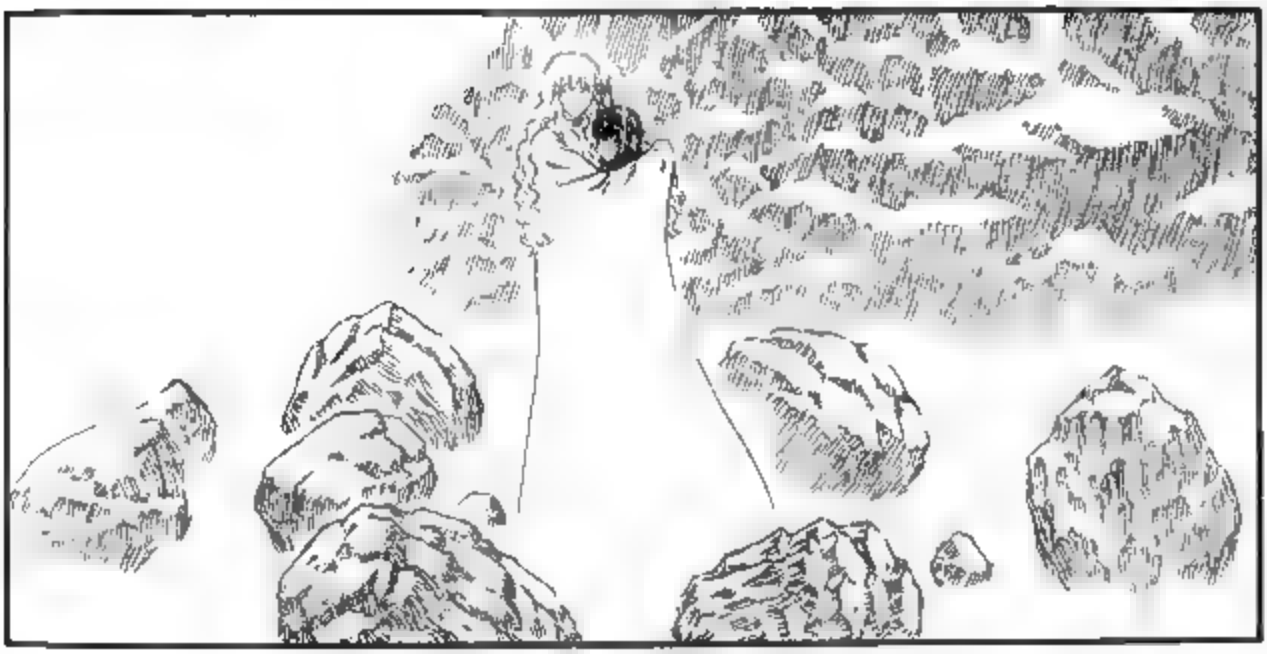
BETTER THAN ANYONE.

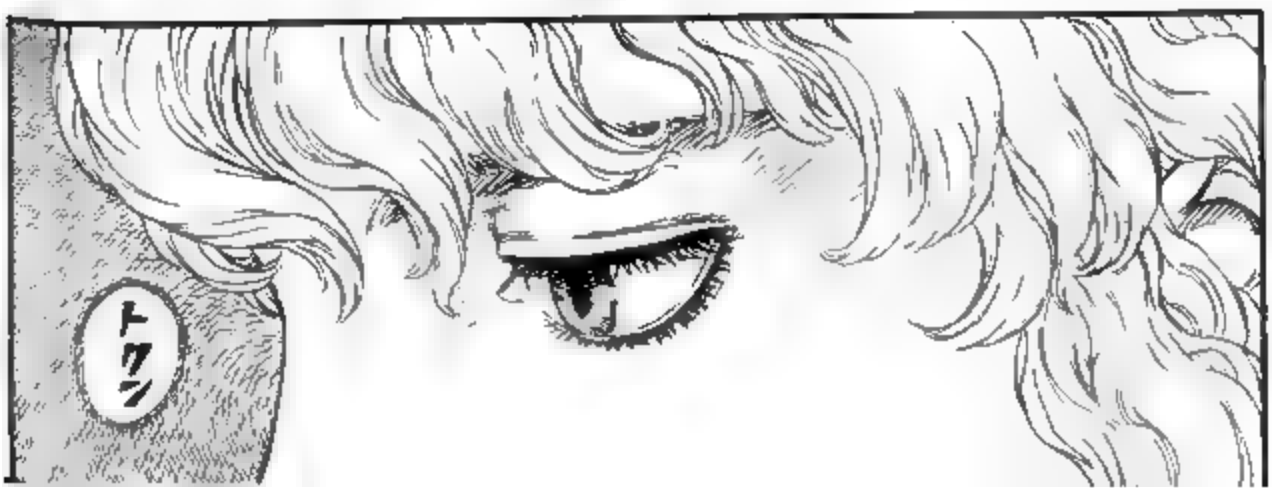


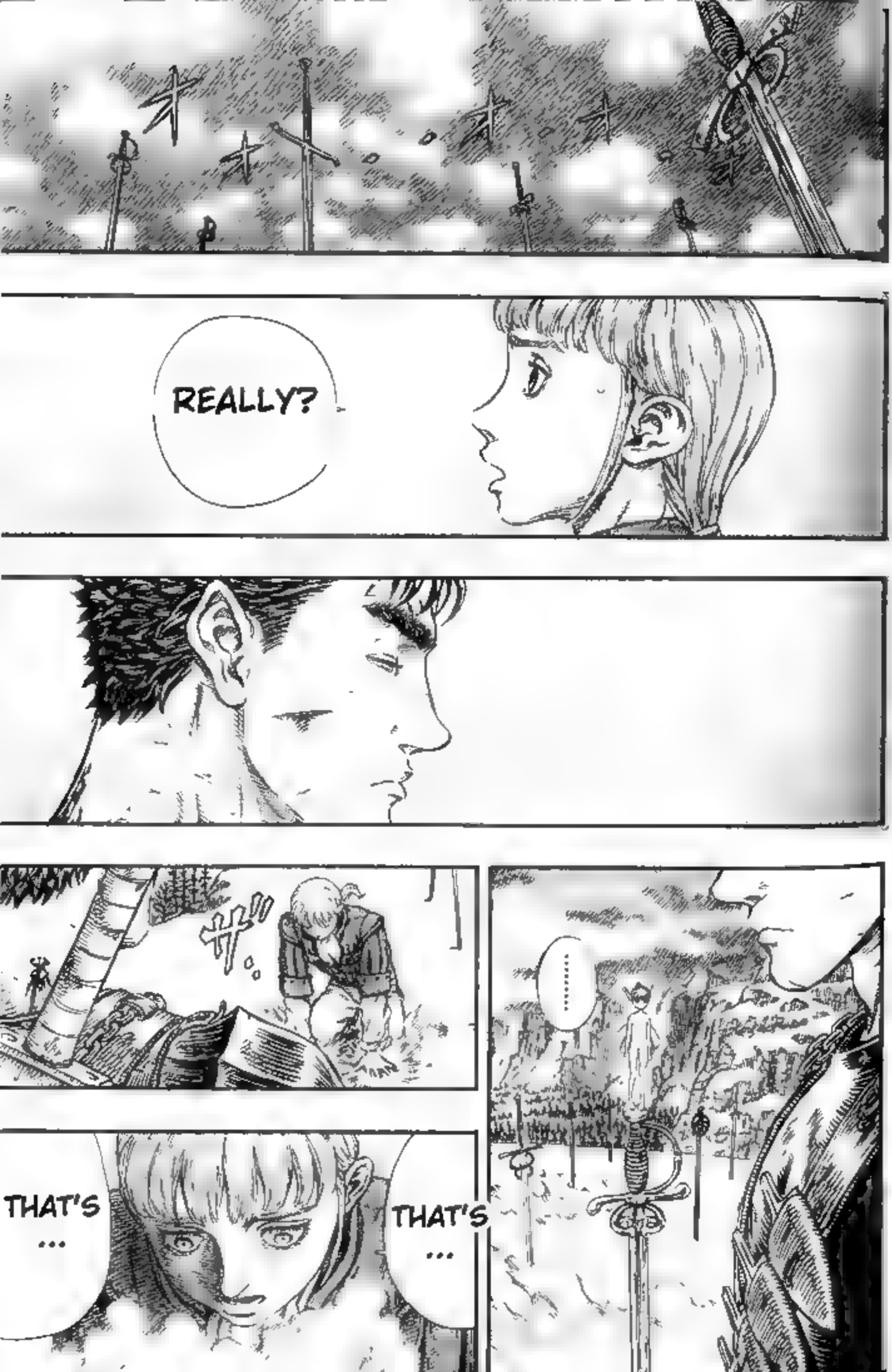

GATTS ...
TELL ME.
THE TRUTH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO GRIFFITH AND EVERYONE?

I HAVE TO KNOW!
NO ...
IT IS MY RIGHT TO KNOW.
DON'T CARE HOW HORRIBLE A STORY IT IS...
GATTS ...!


トクン




トクン


REALLY?
THAT'S ...
THAT'S ...

THAT'S WHERE IT'S FROM.
THAT IMAGE ...
YEAH.
SORT OF FIGURED THAT OUT.
I GUESS I'D...
.....
う?

IT'S TOTALLY BURIED.
THIS IS HOPE-LESS.
RIGHT WHEN WE'D ALL GOT TOGETHER AT LAST...
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GATTS AND CASKA'S HOUSE ...
WHAT NOW?
I'M GOING TOO!
CARRY THAT BURDEN ALONE.
YOU CAN'T ...
JUST SETTLED IN COMFORTABLY HERE...
ALL THIS TIME, KNOWING NOTHING...

NO.
WHY?!
I WAS A FALCON ...!
I WAS ...
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
YOU ...
CAN'T HATE GRIFFITH.
.....!
!
YOU'RE LEAVING?

YOU'RE ALL LEAVING?
YOU'RE ALL...
ERICA ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GO AFTER HER!
.....

NOW WHADDA WE DO?
SO?
CHASING REVENGE ?
KEEP ...
TAKE HER ALONG.
YOU CAN'T ...

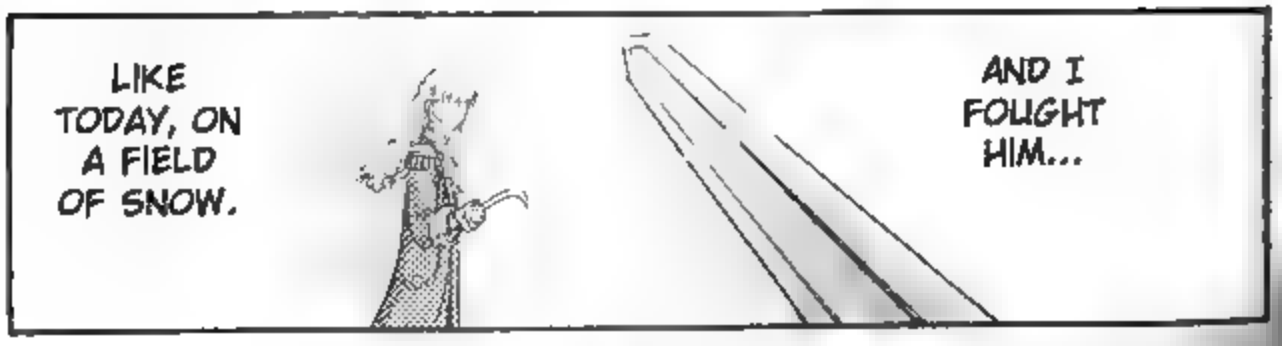
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I KNOW THAT.
I MEAN, YOU TAKE HER ALONG AND REVENGE JUST...
I KNOW.
THE TOWER OF JUDGMENT PROVED THAT...
IF TWO OF BRANDED FOLK STOP IN THE SAME SPOT FOR VERY LONG ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
BUT THE ELF MINE'S CRUSHED
STOPPING HERE'S JUST AS BAD,
I SURE CAN'T THINK OF ANY.
NO OTHER ELF HOMES NEARBY?
POOR THING...
ANYWAY, WE JUST GONNA LOCK HER UP AGAIN?
THAT'S WHY SHE KEEPS RUNNING AWAY, AIN'T IT?

HMM, ELF HOMES ...
AH, I KNOW!
IT'S A BIT FAR, BUT IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PARADISE PROBABLY SAFER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WHOLE WORLD! (DUNNO WHY I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT...)
MY HOME.

YOU WON'T EVEN STAY THE NIGHT?
KUSHARN ASSAULT
I TOLD YOU. THIS BRAND SUMMONS ANY GHOSTS AND DEMONS AROUND.
THAT PUTS YOU IN DANGER AS WELL.
BUT I...
GODO USED TO SAY THAT.
THEN ERICA.
.....
I WANT TO...
BUT STILL,
DON'T WAVE IT AROUND.
IF YOU CAN'T REPLACE SOME-THING..

MAKE SURE YOU TAKE CARE OF HER,
BE GOOD, CASKA!

IT WAS SNOWING JUST LIKE THIS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN I LEFT THE FALCONS BEHIND...
SNOW.


LIKE TODAY, ON A FIELD OF SNOW.
AND I FOUGHT HIM...

HE LEFT ME BEHIND.
BUT THIS TIME...

THIS IS WHAT I WILL DO.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS...
I THOUGHT I SAID.
I WILL ...
TAKE MY OWN COUNTRY.

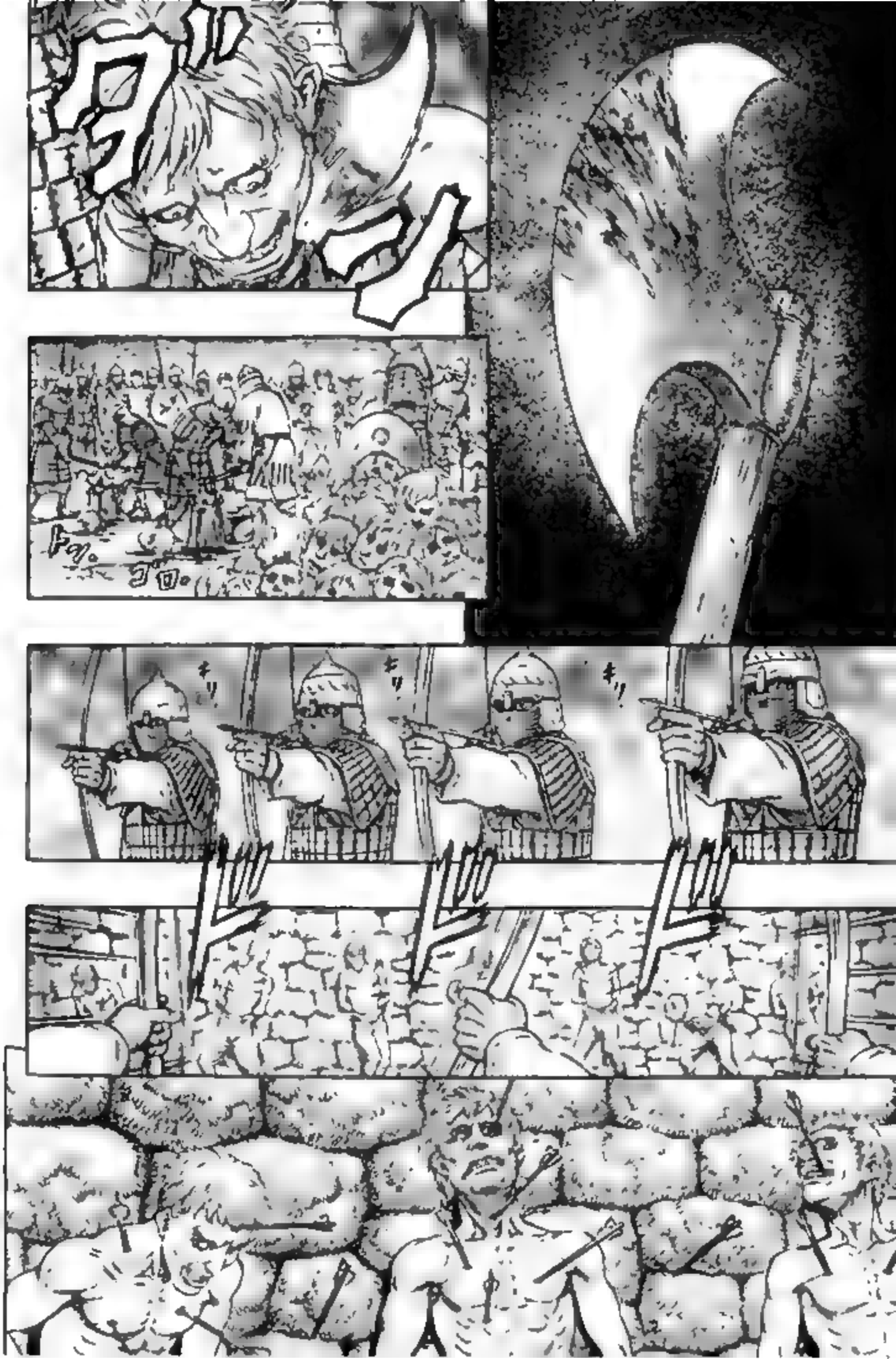
BETTER THAN ANYONE.

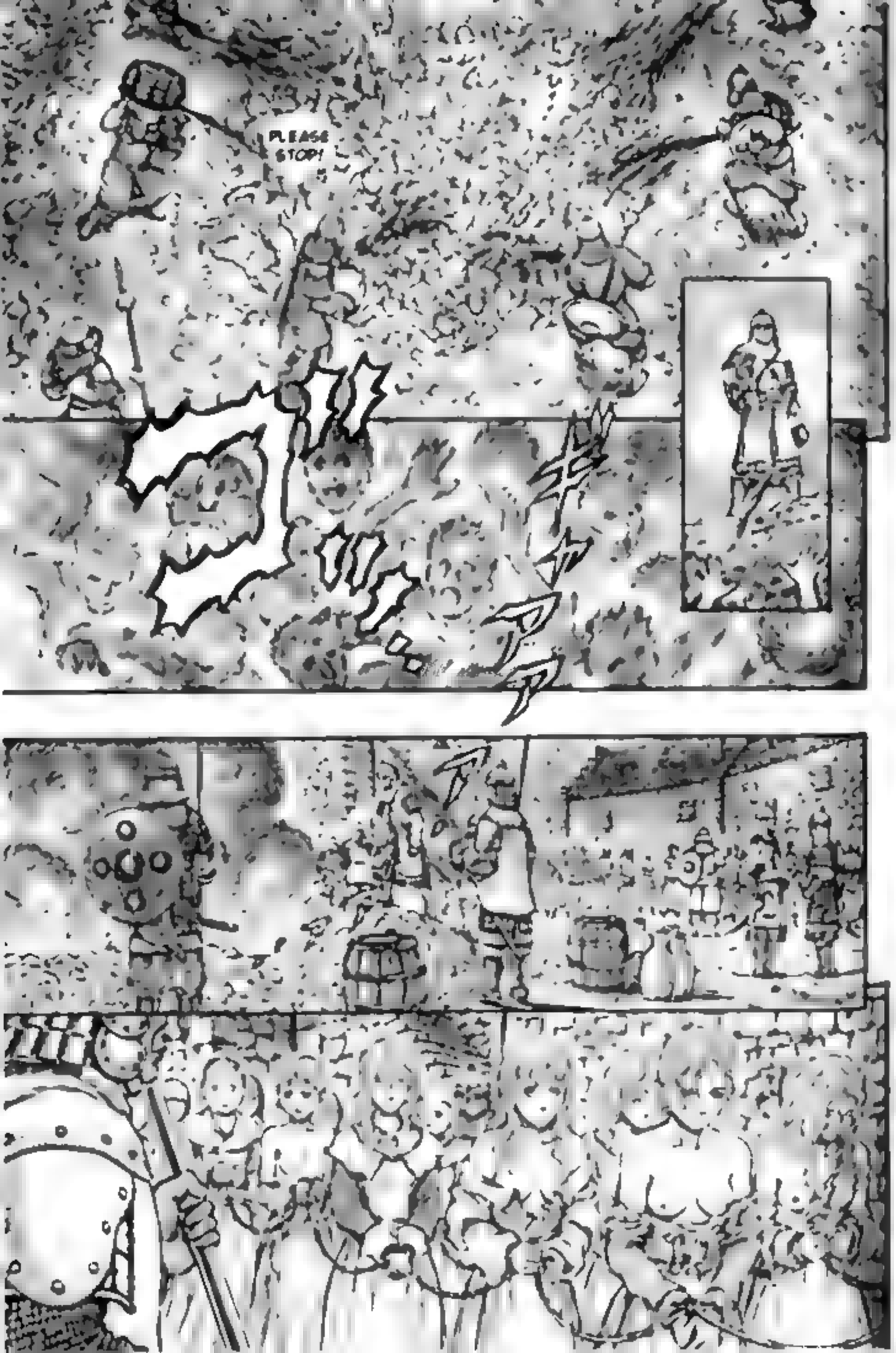
I WILL NOT LOOSE YOU.

THIS TIME...

ドン・ドン。

WESTERN
MIDLAND
SHET



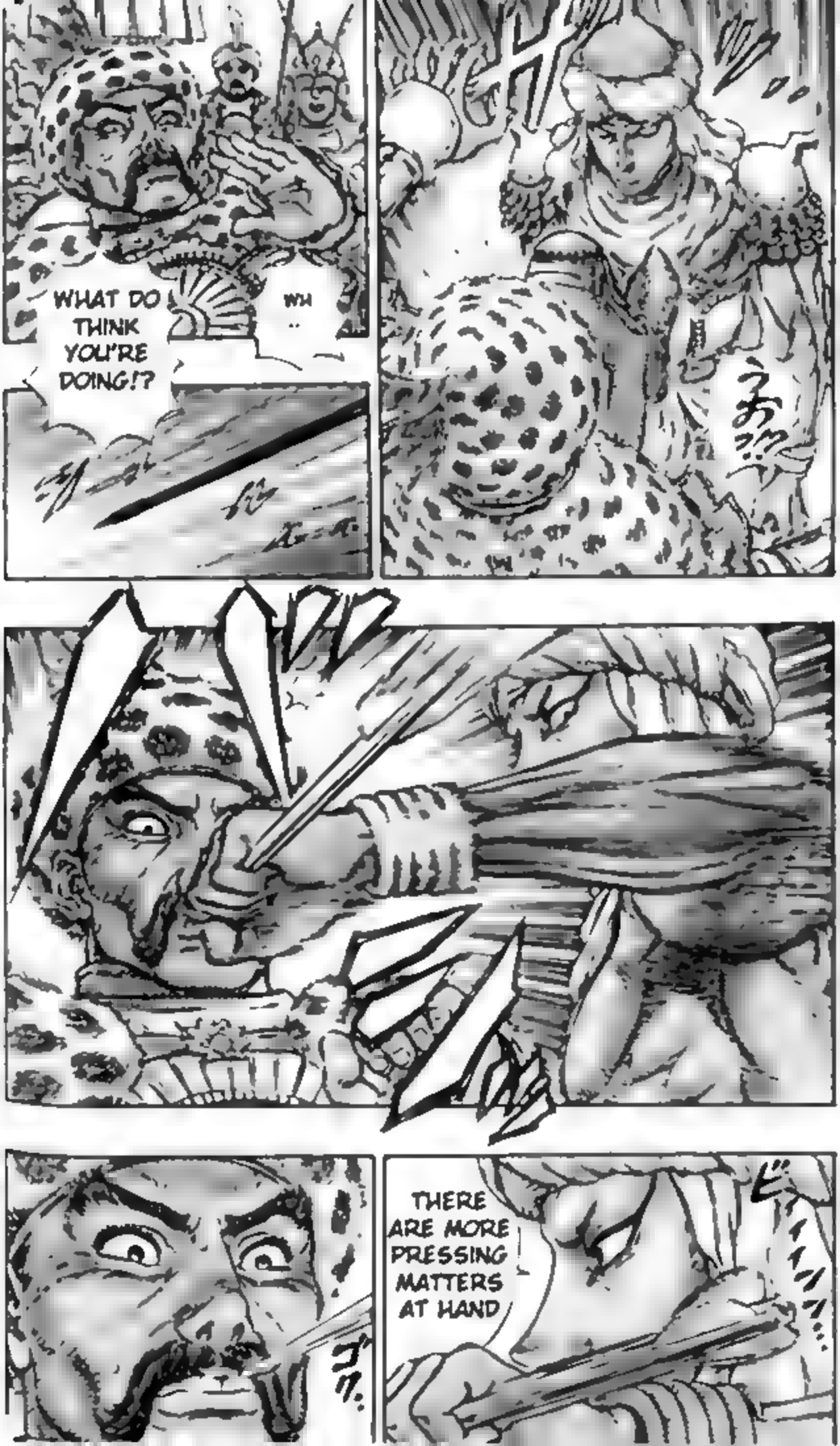

PLEASE STOP!

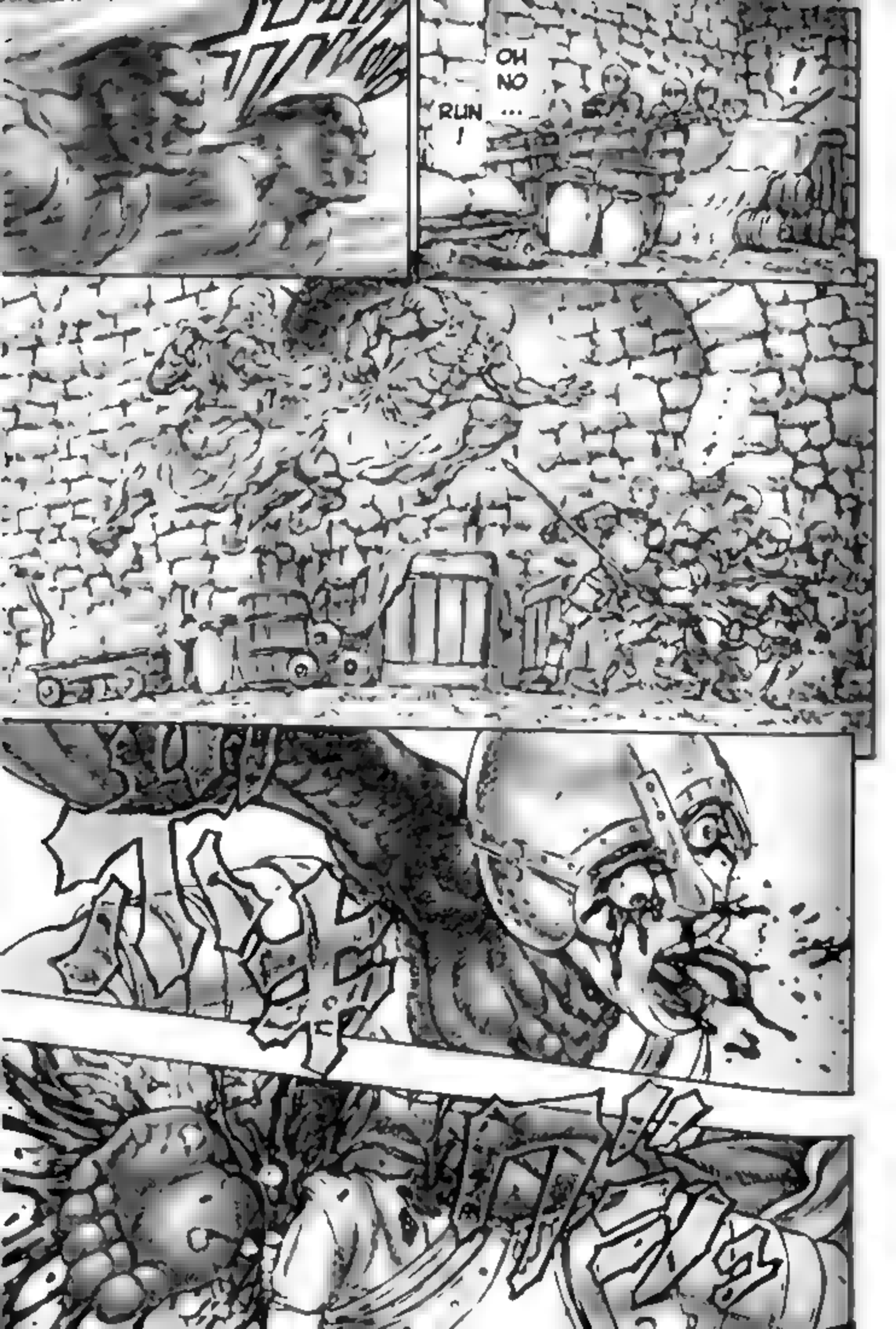
OR GET KNOCKED UP WITH A KUSHARN CHILD THAT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO CONTROL ANOTHER RACE
MADE INTO SLAVES AND WHISKED OFF TO THEIR COUNTRY.
WHO KNOWS
WHAT EVER WILL BECOME OF US?
THIS TOWN, AND THIS COUNTRY.
NO MATTER WHAT, WE'RE DONE FOR.
THIS IS JUST A RUMOR, BUT I HEAR THE KUSHARN SACRIFICE WOMEN TO THEIR GOD.
WELL SAYIN' IT NOW DON'T HELP NONE.
THEN NONE OF THIS...
IF ONLY THAT MAN WERE HERE...
IF ONLY THE BAND OF THE FALCON ...
HER PARENTS WERE BURNED TO DEATH RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER AND SHE'S BEEN A BIT FUNNY EVER SINCE.
WHAT AILS THAT CHILD?
HE'S COMING.
ANY MOMENT
TO SAVE US.
HE'S COMING

THE WIND IS WHISPERING.
I CAN HEAR IT
THE FALCON OF LIGHT IS COMING.

LET US GIVE THEM A SAMPLE OF THE MEDICINE OF FEAR OUR FORCES TRADE IN.
BUT GENERAL, THEY REFUSED OUR THRICE OFFERED ADVICE TO SURRENDER. WE CANNOT SIMPLY IGNORE THAT RESISTANCE.
LANDS, BUT IT DOES TAKE SUCH A LONG TIME TO RUIN A CITY.
IF THEY WOULD SIMPLY SUBMIT THEY MIGHT LIVE ACCEPTABLY LONG LIVES.
THEY INVITE THIS MASSACRE UPON THEMSELVES,
OUR ARMIES HAVE NOW DESTROYED SIX OF THEIR FORTS.
AND YET HERE YOU ARE.
I'M THOROUGHLY DISGUSTED WITH YOU, VARKILAKA.
AND YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY CANNOT CAPTURE ONE MAN.
IT'S ABSURD.
AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES WARRIORS?

SINCE OUR MISSION TO THE CHURCH WAS APPOINTED TO US BY AN ORACLE, THAT WE ALL MUST BE WILLING TO ADMIT TO THE EXISTENCE OF MATTERS BEYOND OUR KNOWLEDGE
I HUMBLY SUBMIT THAT,
WHO ON EARTH WOULD BELIEVE SUCH AN OUTRAGEOUS LIE?
AND THIS STORY OF YOURS THAT THE FALCON MOUNTED ON A BEAST AND FLEW AWAY!
BUT LOOK LIKE A SLAVE.
YOU PUT ON AIRS...
A WHIM.
THE VERY FACT THAT THE SULTAN HAS CHOSEN TO GRANT THE LIKES OF YOU THE SLIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF DUTY IN MILITARY AFFAIRS CAN BE ONLY ONE THING...
THEY DO WHAT WE OFFICERS TELL THEM TO.
DO YOU KNOW THE ROLE OF CHURCHES IN WAR?
ORACLES AND THE LIKE ARE MERELY A CONVENIENT WAY TO LIGHT THE FUSE OF WAR.
YOU BEGAN AS SLAVES, BUT GOT INVOLVED WITH THAT CONFLICT OVER THE SULTANATE SUCCESSION BEFORE BEING DRIVEN FROM THE LAND BY THE NEW ROYALTY; WHY HAVE YOU BEEN PERMITTED TO RETURN?
WE HANG ON TO THEM FOR THE SAKE OF THE LOST.
I TAKE PITY ON YOUR FAITH IN THEM.


WHAT DO THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
WH ..
うお!?!?
THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS AT HAND
ビィィィィ...

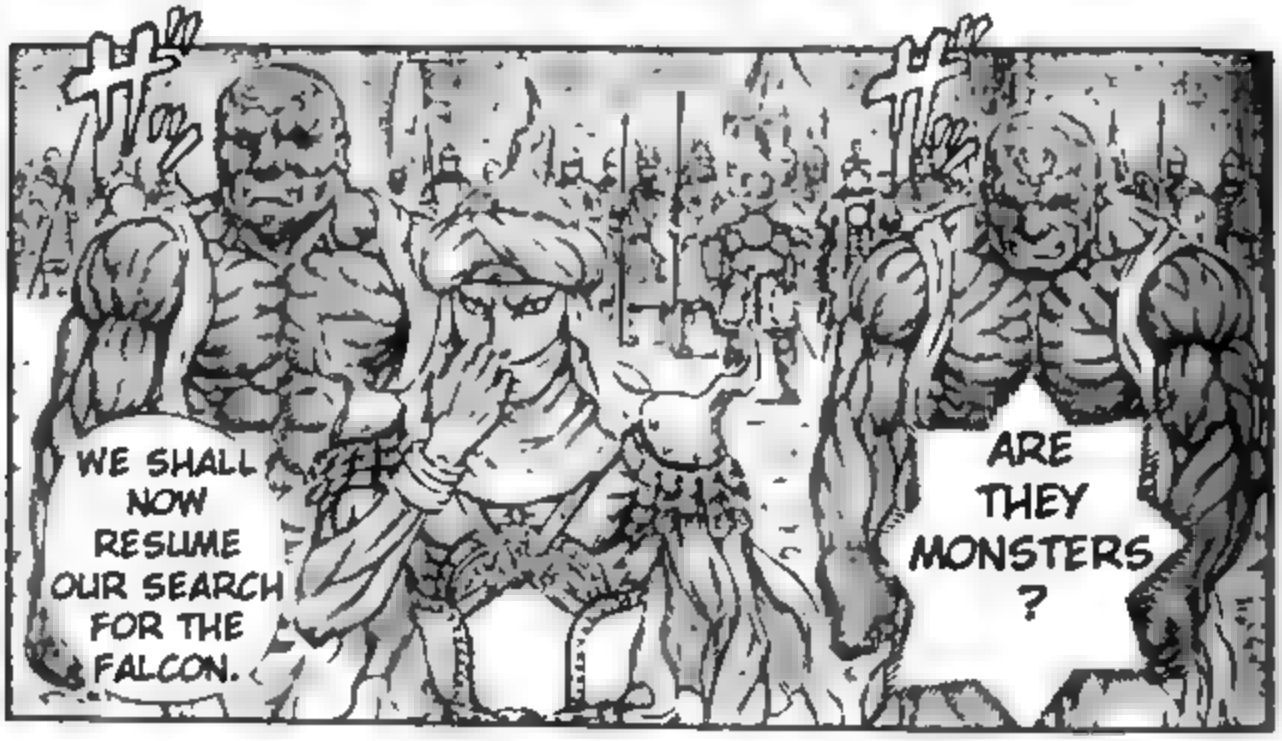

OH NO ... RUN !
!

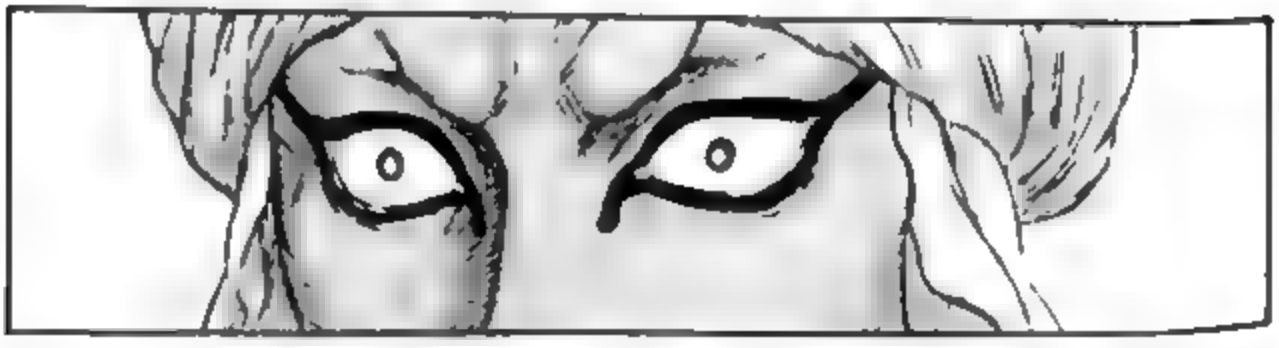
うわあああ
ちくしょおおお

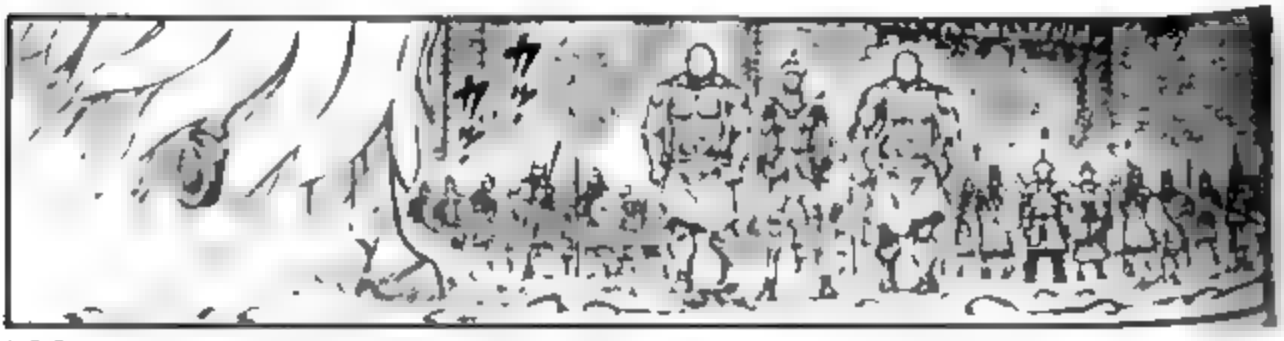
ひ!!!

I BEG YOUR PARDON.

THEY JUST TORE THROUGH STEEL WITH THEIR BARE HANDS!
HOW DO THEY MOVE THAT FAST?


WE SHALL NOW RESUME OUR SEARCH FOR THE FALCON.
ARE THEY MONSTERS ?





WIND OF TIME 1

WHO IS...!?

GOD'S BEARD! WHY IS HE HERE!?
THE FALCON OF LIGHT!
Z
YOU ARE ...
WHAT ...
Y ...

EH
?

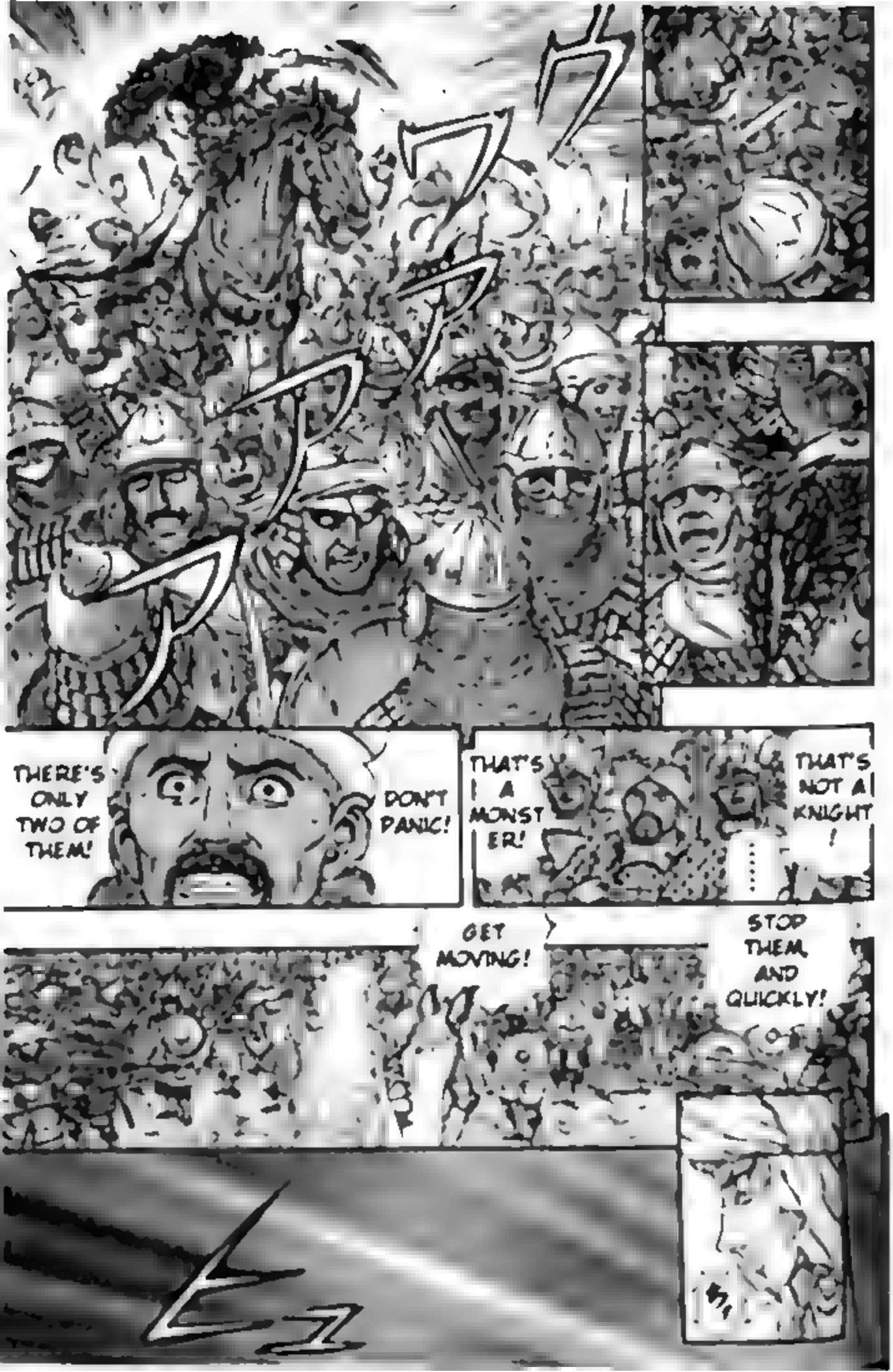
ビク。
ビク。
ガ。
ガ。
ガ。

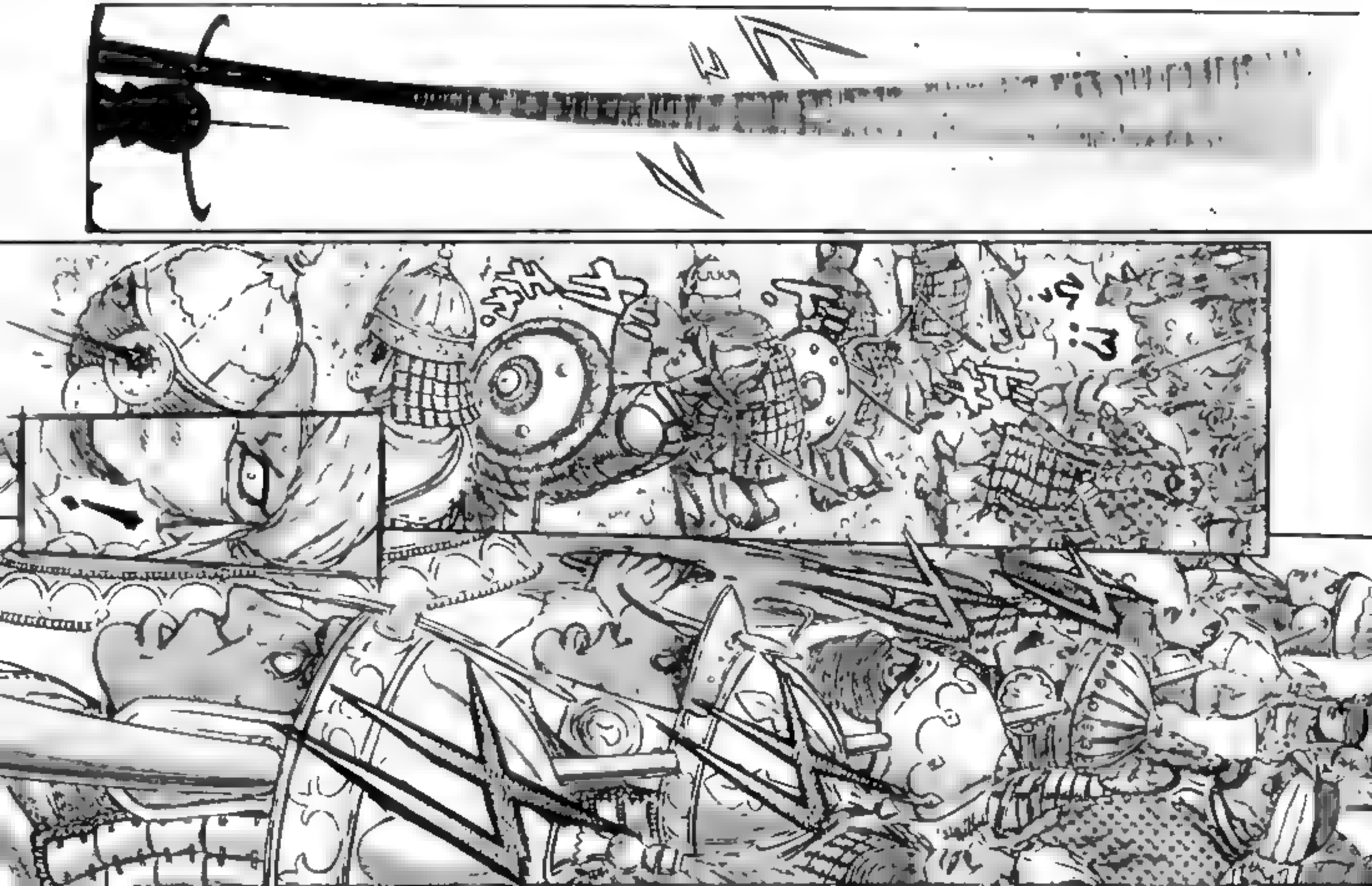
S-SIR!
WH-WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE!
KILL HIM!!
AIM! FIRE!
W ...
WAIT!

BUT ...
A FLUKE ?
HE COULDN'T HAVE, NOT THAT MANY!
DID HE DODGE ?
THEY ALL MISSED ?
HAVE YOU TAKEN LEAVE OF YOUR SENSES!?
OF COURSE IT WAS A FLUKE!
FOOLS!
FIRE!
AIM AGAIN !

!?
WHAT THE!?
WH ...

WHAT IS HE!?
KILL HIM TOO!
HE'S WITH HIM!


THERE'S ONLY TWO OF THEM!
DON'T PANIC!
THAT'S A MONSTER!
THAT'S NOT A KNIGHT!
.....
GET MOVING!
STOP THEM AND QUICKLY!



YOU WERE NOT MOUNTED. FORGIVE ME.
THOUGH ENEMIES ...

I HAVE SOUGHT THIS GROUND UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF AN ORACLE.
MY NAME IS LOCUS.
I SEEK THE FALCON OF LIGHT.
THAT IS YOU, I PRESUME ?

YOU SHALL JOIN YOUR SWORD WITH MINE.
THE MOON-LIGHT KNIGHT, LOCUS.
GLADLY!
HE IS MIDLAND'S DIVINE PROTECTOR.
I SAW HIM AT THE VICTORY PARADE IN WINDHAM, NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.
NO, THAT COULDN'T BE...
FALCON ?
THE FALCON OF LIGHT...
BUT IT'S HIM, SURE AS YOUR BORN...
I HEARD HE DIED!

THIS CAN'T BE...THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF THEM!

IT'S HIM ...

IT IS HIM!

HEY DUDE!

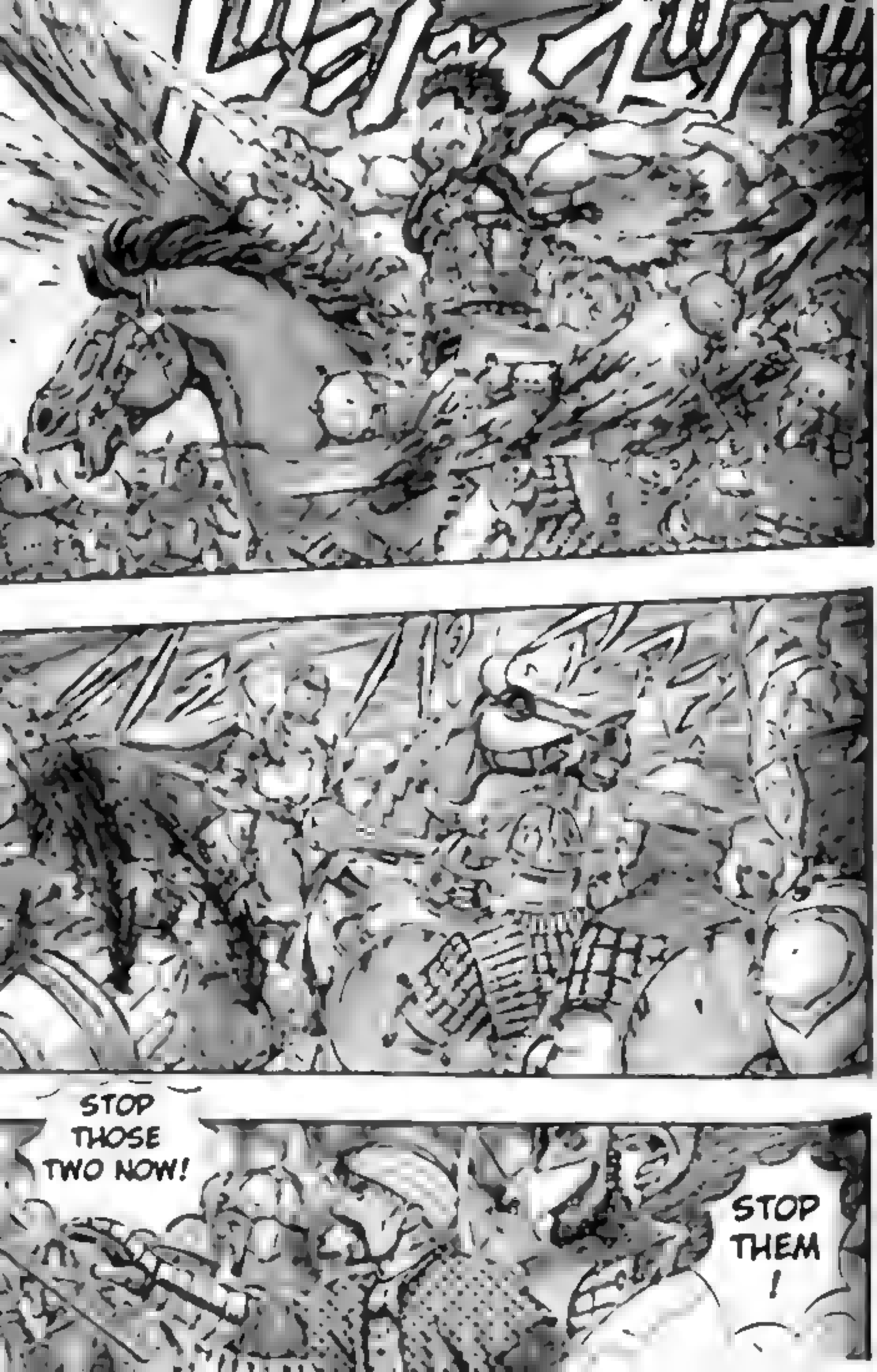
THE WIND WHISPERED

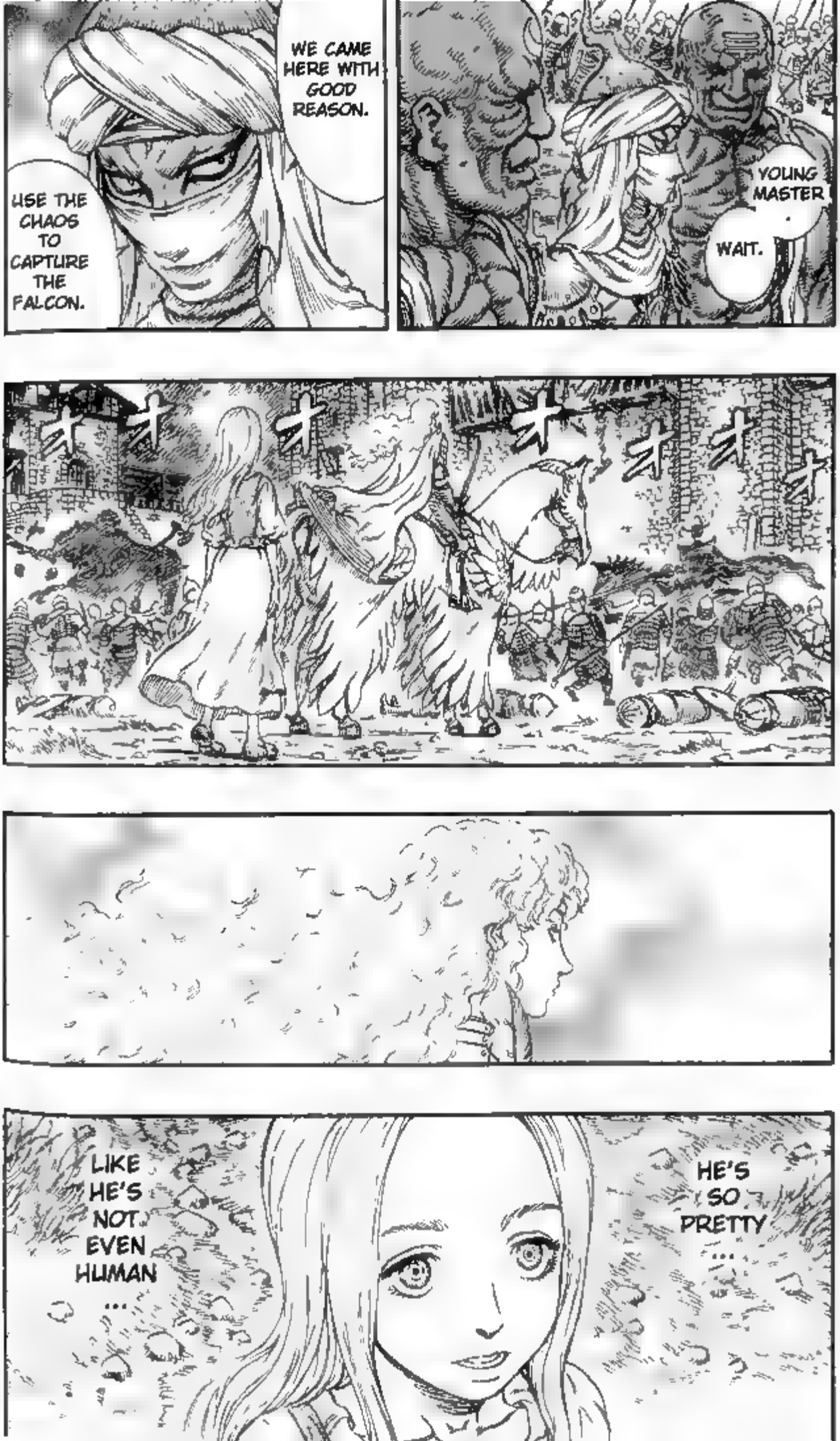
AND THIS WORLD BEGAN TO CHANGE.

GRIFFITH

WIND OF TIME 2

BERSERK


STOP THOSE TWO NOW!
STOP THEM!


WE CAME HERE WITH GOOD REASON.
USE THE CHAOS TO CAPTURE THE FALCON.
YOUNG MASTER
WAIT.
LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN ...
HE'S SO PRETTY ...

LOOK OUT!

SLOW ...
AND STUPID
!?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
THE TAR-PATHA, DID YOU SAY?
YOU ARE VARKLA-KA'S BEST MEN?
DID HE THROW US BACK?

YOU ARE THE FALCON OF LIGHT
AS THE ORACLES SAID.
THAT MASK ...
YOU'RE LA'KUSHAS !
WHY IS HE HERE ?
BUT HE WAS EXILED !
BEA UTI- FUL.
AND YOU ARE ...

ONE DAY I SHALL CUT OFF YOUR HEAD...
AND MAKE IT MINE.
ﾅﾅ
ﾅﾅ
ﾅﾅ
ﾅﾅ
I SHALL LET NO ONE HARM YOU.
UNTIL THEN ...

LET'S PLAY.
ぬう!

CLOSE THE GATES!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!

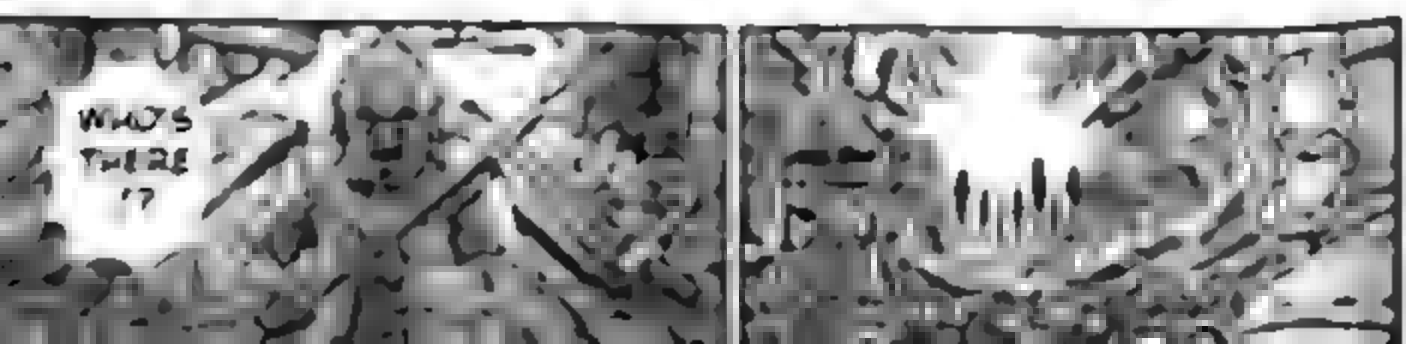
WHAT THE!?

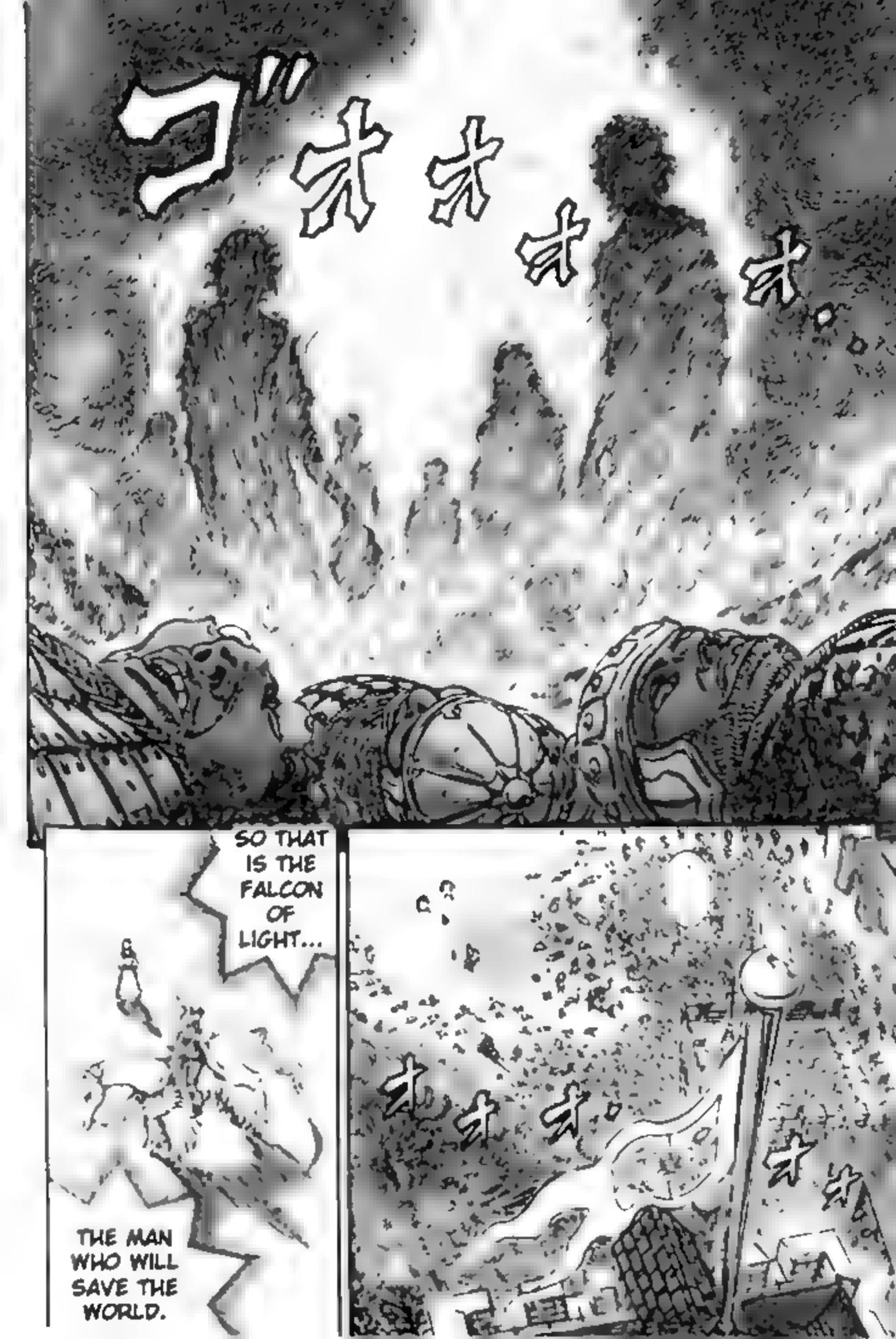
NAGA?
A GIANT ...
STAY YOUR GROUND !
HE IS ALONE !
HOLD !

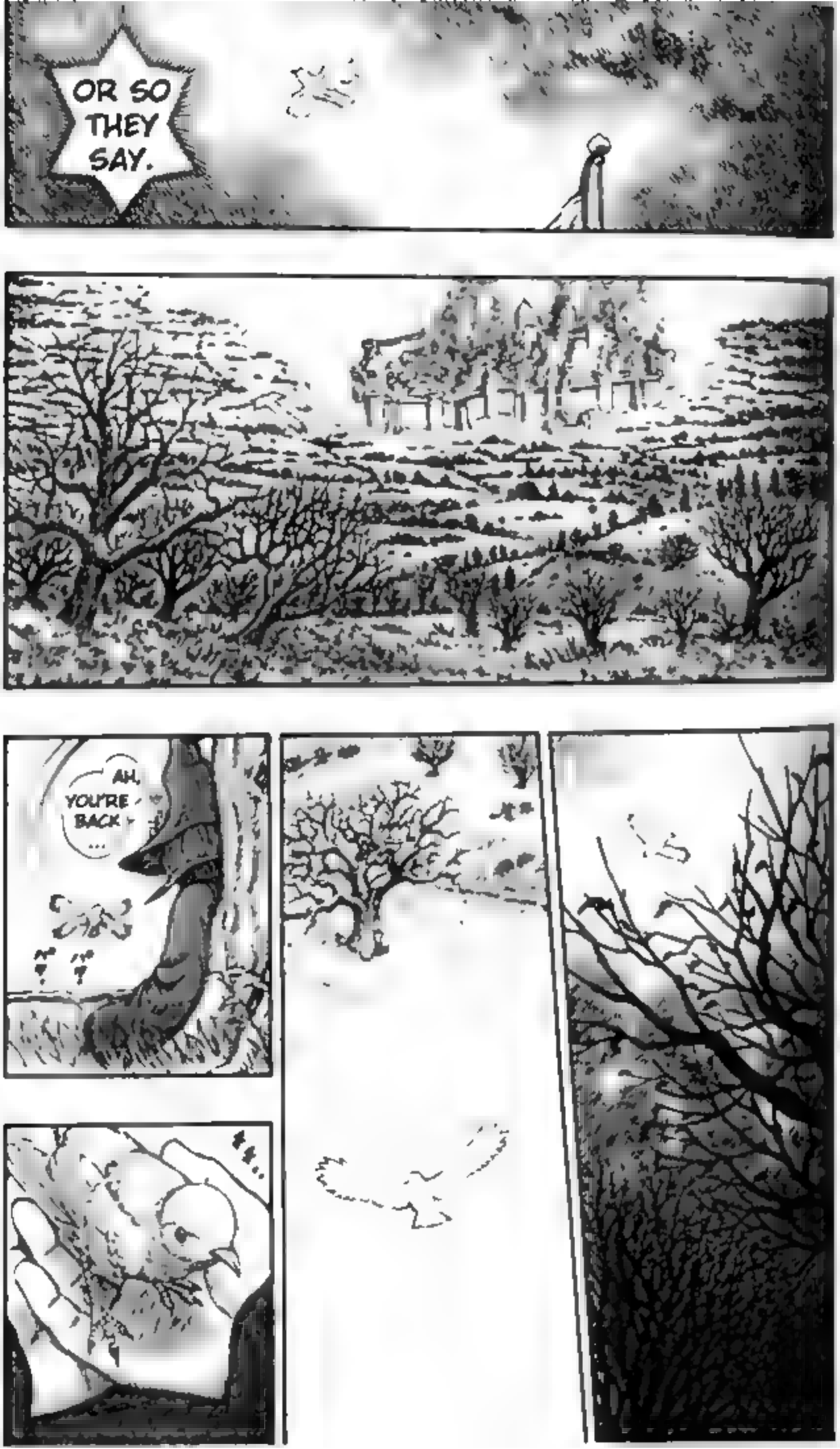
ゴルオン!!

IT'S BREATHING FIRE!

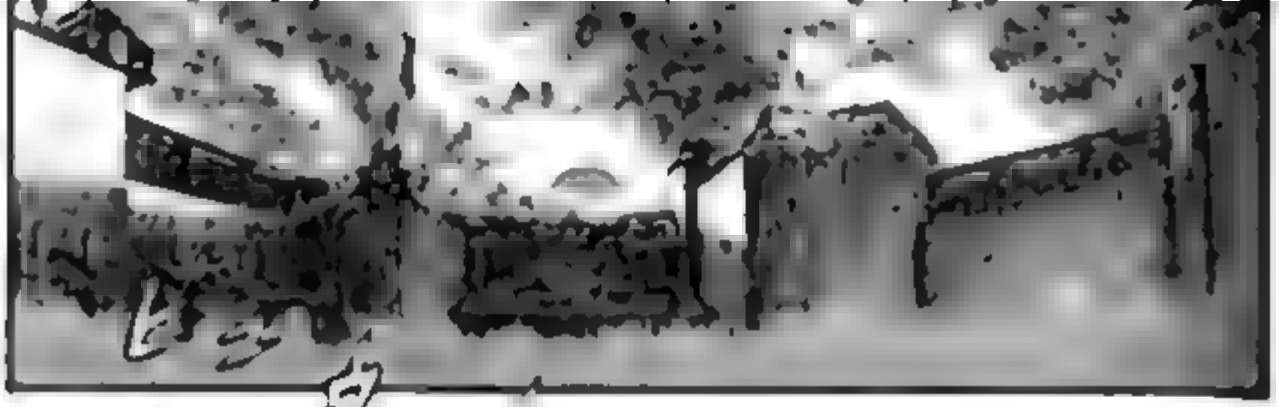
BRING FORTH THE CASTLE RESERVES !
THEY'RE ALL

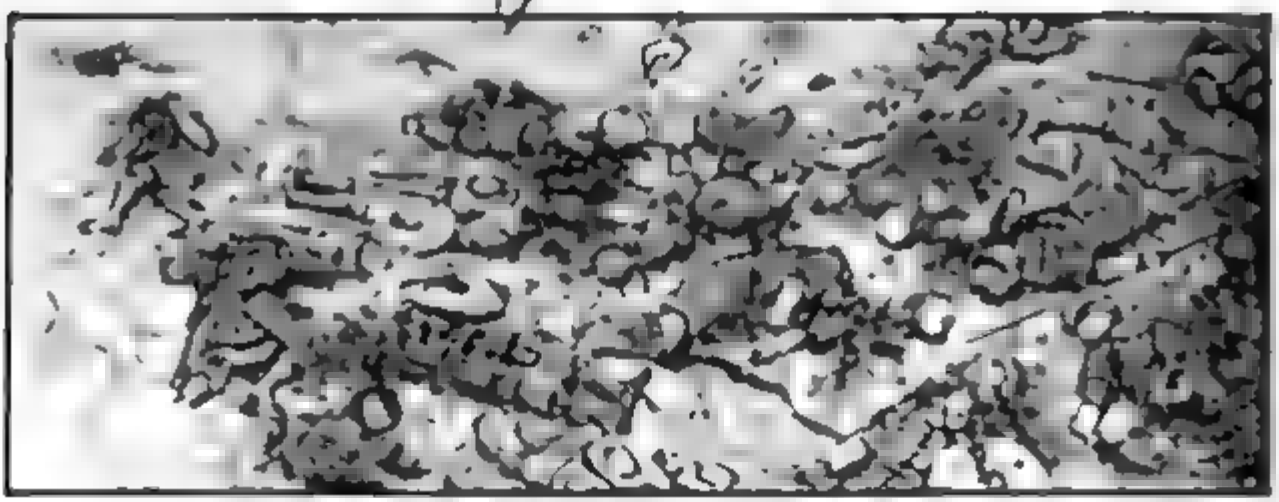

WHO'S THERE ??

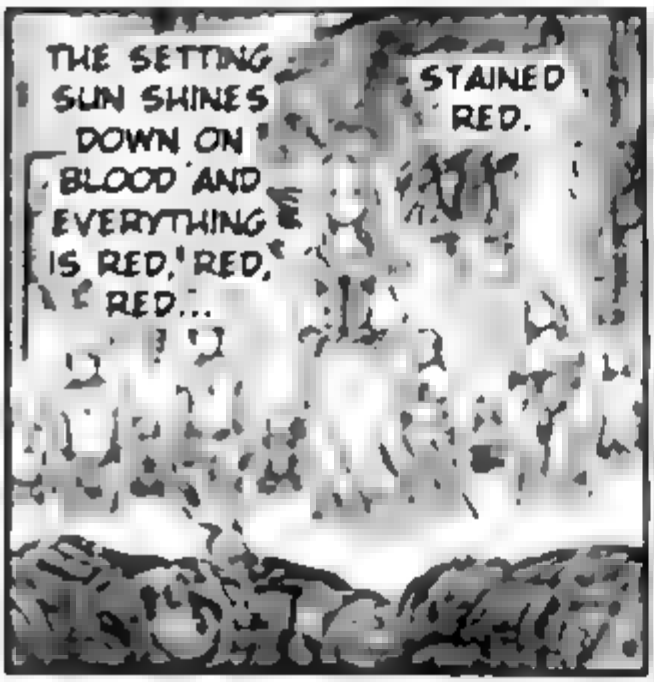

SO THAT IS THE FALCON OF LIGHT...
THE MAN WHO WILL SAVE THE WORLD.


OR SO THEY SAY.
AH, YOU'RE BACK ...

AW, MAN, SHILKE, YOU ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HARD STUFF I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
GETTING CLOSE TO POWER LIKE THAT, IN MY ASTRAL BODY WOULD BE DANGEROUS; ONE SLIP AND I'D BE LOST IN THE OTHER WORLD FOREVER.
WHY'D YOU USE A BIRD?
THANK YOU.
?!!
HE IS THE ONE WHO SHALL BRING TRUE DARKNESS TO THE WORLD.
WE MUST MAKE USE OF THE FALCON OF DARKNESS.
THE KING OF THE BLIND WHITE SHEEP IS THE MASTER OF THE BLACK SHEEP WITH A BURDEN OF SINS.






THE SETTING SUN SHINES DOWN ON BLOOD AND EVERYTHING IS RED, RED, RED...
STAINED RED.

THE SMELL IS SUF-FOCAT-ING

AND NUMBS OUR MINDS
THE SMELL OF BLOOD ENVELOPS US..

BUT SOMEHOW
THIS SHOULD BE A GHASTLY SIGHT...

LIKE A PAINTING.

LITERALLY,

IT LOOKED...

WE ARE ALL
STARRING IN A
STORY WITH NO
ENDING IN SIGHT.

BERSERK

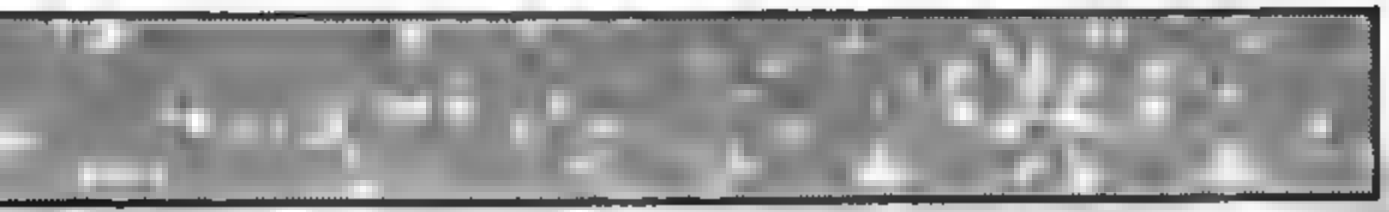
SNOW AND FIRE
(PROLOGUE)

BERSERK

THIS IS NICE ISN'T IT? GETTING AWAY FROM CROWDS AND JUST BEING ON OUR OWN.
FINALLY FEELS LIKE WE'RE TRAVELING.
THANK GOODNESS WE MANAGED TO FIND A SPOT OUT OF THE WIND AND SNOW.

SO WE'RE TURNING BACK THEN?
I HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION
FORGET ABOUT THE BLACK SWORDSMAN?
IF YOU'D LIKE TO INFORM THE INQUISITION THAT THE KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY IRON CHAINS WERE SWALLOWED UP BY MONSTERS ALONG WITH ALL THE REFUGEES
WONDER IF THAT LT WILL PULL THROUGH. (HE IS NOT KNOWN FOR FLEXIBILITY.)
THEN YOU CAN GO RIGHT AHEAD AND RISK BEING BRANDED A HERETIC AND DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY
AND HUNGRY
STUFF
AND NONSENSE
I'M COLD.
TO SEE THAT ROOM AGAIN.
I HAVE NO DESIRE ...
AS FOR ME...
WHY ARE YOU SITTING OVER THERE? COME OVER HERE BY THE FIRE
AND AS FOR YOU,
AH, NO THANKS. JUST IN CASE I THOUGHT I'D KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR KUSHARN ARMY SCOUTS OR THE LIKE
YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF OBTAINING PROVISIONS, AND I WOULD BE MOST PUT OUT IF YOU FELL ILL
JUST COME HERE AND WARM YOURSELF
NO ONE IN THEIR RIGHT MIND TRAVELS IN WEATHER LIKE THIS
.....

I WAS STILL A CHILD, BESET BY COLD AND HUNGER
I HATE FIRES
IT WAS SNOWING JUST LIKE THIS THE DAY I FIRST MET FARNEZE.
?



WE'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF FEED ROUND HERE FROM NOW ON. AIN'T NO JOB FOR A TITCHY LITTLE SHIT LIKE YOU.
DON'T COME BACK !

THE SEAT OF GOD'S POWER.
THIS IS A HOLY CITY.

EVERYTHING HERE EXISTS FOR GOD, IS SACRIFICED TO GOD.
THE RINGING BELLS LET SOUND THEIR SONG OF PRAISE TO GOD.
STEEPLES SCRAPE THE SKY, PRAISING GOD
IT CAN BE A VERY HEARTLESS CITY INDEED.
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING TO SACRIFICE ...

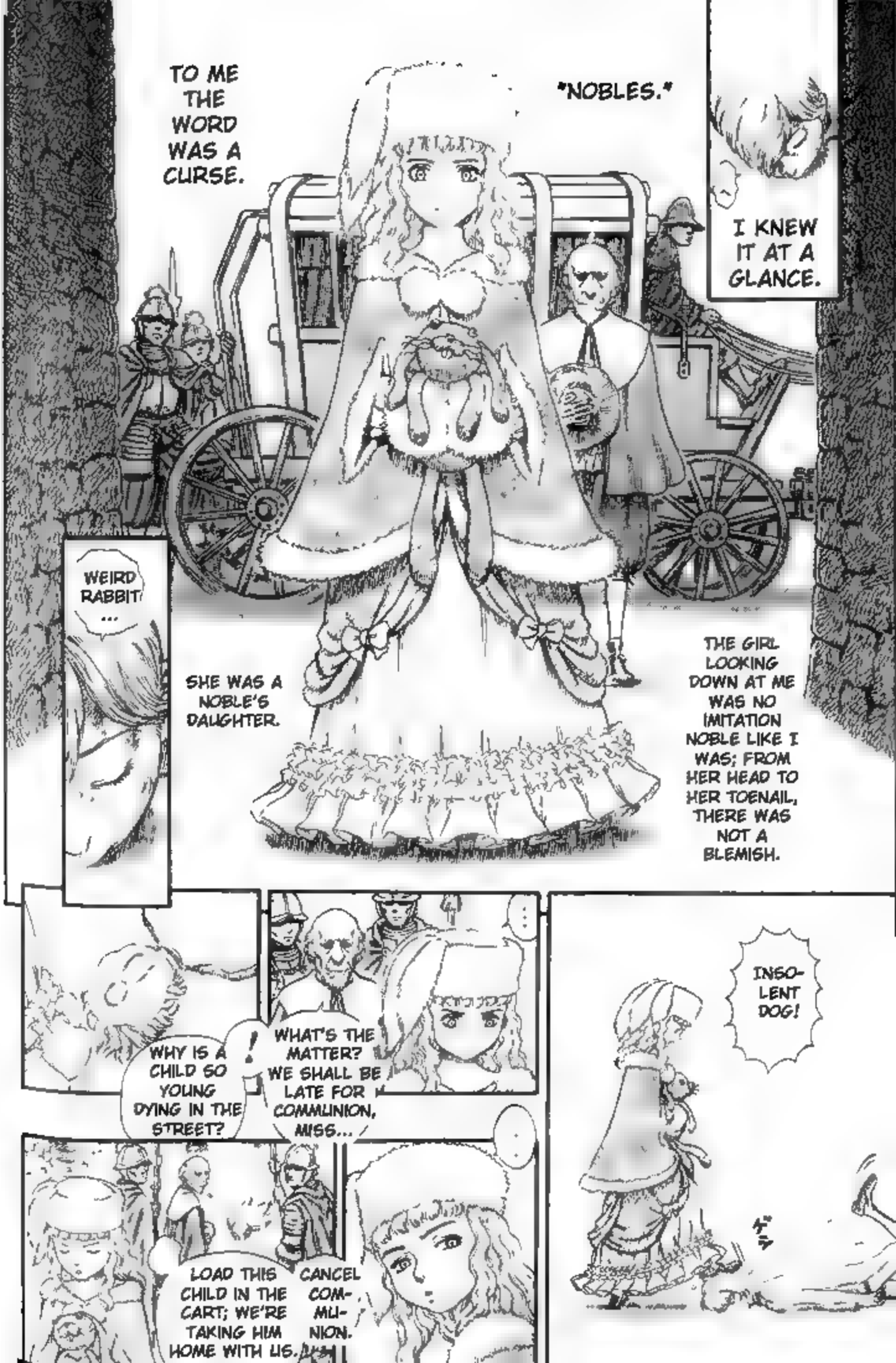
JUST OPENING THE DOOR WAS ALWAYS ENOUGH TO DEPRESS ME.
THAT WAS IN THE INNER-MOST ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR, WITHOUT MUCH LIGHT

IN A RUN-DOWN BUILDING LOCATED A WAYS FROM THE CITY.
AS I CHILD, I LIVED WITH THAT

FROM INFANCY I WAS SURROUNDED BY THE SCENT OF DEATH.
ILLNESS HAD LEFT THAT NOTHING BUT SKIN AND BONES
I HAVE YOUR FOOD, MOTHER.
MY BACK HURTS, RUB THE PAIN AWAY.
WHERE DID YOU WANDER OFF TO? I'VE BEEN SUFFERING HERE ALONE...
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT BRUISE?
FIGHTING WITH THE BOYS IN TOWN...
THEY OFTEN MADE ME THINK OF HER AS SOME SORT OF UNKNOWN MONSTER.
HER SPINE AND RIBS STOOD OUT FROM HER BACK LIKE THEY'D BEEN CARVED THERE.
DO NOT DEBASE YOURSELF BY ARGUING WITH THOSE BENEATH YOU.
BE PROUD!
YOU ARE OF NOBLE BLOOD!

YOU MUST UNDER-STAND THIS..
MOTHER, CALM YOURSELF BEFORE YOU START COUGHING AGAIN.
IN HER DELIRIUM, MY MOTHER OFTEN CAME BACK TO THOSE WORDS.
BE PROUD!
SOMEDAY YOUR FATHER WILL COME FOR US
WHEN HE DOES, YOU MUST BE FLAWLESS, A NOBLEMAN HE CAN BE PROUD OF.
YOU ARE MY ONLY HOPE.
TAKE THIS; KEEP IT AGAINST YOUR FLESH.
AND I WAS THE PRODUCT OF A BRIEF FLING WITH THE MASTER OF THAT HOUSE.
IT SEEMED THAT, LONG AGO, MY MOTHER HAD WORKED AS A LADY IN WAITING AT A NOBLEMAN'S MANSION.
IN OTHER WORDS, I AM A NOBLEMAN'S BASTARD.
SOMETIME YOU MAY HAVE TO USE THIS TO PROVE WHO YOU ARE.
TO WONDER HOW A CHILD NOT EVEN TEN YEARS OLD WOULD DEAL WITH THAT HOUSE OF SICKNESS.
IT PROBABLY NEVER OCCURRED TO HER...
LOOK WHA YE GONE AND DUN TO ME BROTHER.
FORCING HER DREAM ONTO MY SMALL SHOULDERS, TO BEAR WHEN SHE WAS GONE.
SHE CLUNG TO THESE PRE-CIOUS MEMO-RIES ...
AND EVERYDAY THE TOWN RIPPED THAT PRIDE OUT BY THE ROOT.
EVERYDAY MY MOTHER STRENGTHENED THE BURDEN OF PRIDE...

AND FELT NO EMOTIONS.
EVENTUALLY, I WAS LEFT WITH NO EXPRESSIONS...
I CAN'T MOVE.
IF I STAY LIKE THIS, I'LL BE BURIED IN THE SNOW
THAT SOUNDS NICE.
SOUNDS EASY.
THE SOUND OF A CARRIAGE...
STOP HERE!
STOP THE HORSES!
MISS?
ゴーッ。
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
ザッ…


TO ME THE WORD WAS A CURSE.
"NOBLES."
I KNEW IT AT A GLANCE.
WEIRD RABBIT ...
SHE WAS A NOBLE'S DAUGHTER.
THE GIRL LOOKING DOWN AT ME WAS NO IMITATION NOBLE LIKE I WAS; FROM HER HEAD TO HER TOENAIL, THERE WAS NOT A BLEMISH.
WHY IS A CHILD SO YOUNG DYING IN THE STREET?
!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WE SHALL BE LATE FOR COMMUNION, MISS...
LOAD THIS CHILD IN THE CART; WE'RE TAKING HIM HOME WITH US.
CANCEL COMMUNION.
INSOLENT DOG!

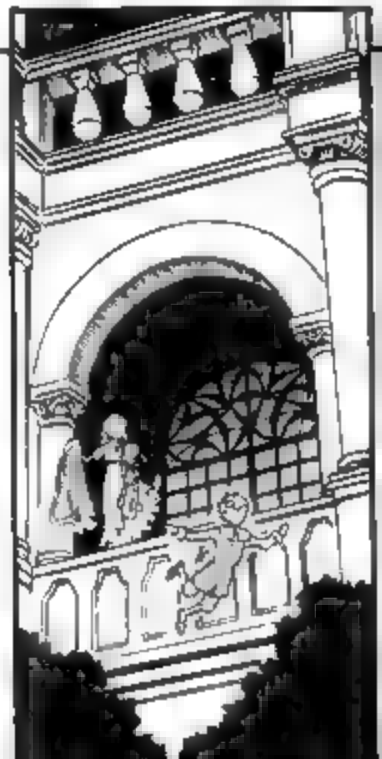
SHE'D PICKED ME UP LIKE AN INJURED PUPPY.
I SHALL CARE FOR HIM!
MISS, WON'T YOU LEAVE SUCH THINGS TO US?
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
YOU GO AWAY!
RIGHT.
FROM THIS POINT ON YOU BELONG TO ME.
I SAVED YOU FROM CERTAIN DEATH.
I HAD NEVER PLANNED ON.
SWEAR TO IT.
THIS WAS SOME-THING...
IF I SAID MY HEART WAS HEAVY I WOULD BE LYING.
I WAS RELEASED FROM THE DEPRESSING MONSTER.
DON'T WORRY, MY WAGES WILL BE ENOUGH TO EMPLOY A NURSE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
THEY TOLD ME THAT, STARTING TOMORROW, I SHOULD COME AND LIVE WITH THEM TO WORK
I WAS ABLE TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT.
BUT THANKS TO THAT...
I WAS TOO FLUS-TERED, AND FORGOT TO ASK.
WHAT WAS THE MAS-TER'S NAME?
A NOBLE 'S MANSI ON?
IT LEFT ME WITH A SINNER'S GUILT.
WORD HARD AND WELL.
THIS IS A CHANCE TO REENTER ARISTO-CRATIC SOCIETY.
SHE SAID BUT ONE THING.

FROM TODAY YOU ARE MY PAGE. YOU ANSWER ONLY TO ME.
THE VENDEMION FAMILY'S PERSONAL ASSETS WERE SAID TO SURPASS THE BUDGET OF THE LARGEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. KINGS OF SEVERAL REALMS HAD SPRUNG FROM THEIR STOCK; AND MANY RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS WITHIN THIS HOLY CITY. THEY WERE THE POWER BEHIND THE POWER, THE SINGLE GREATEST INFLUENCE UPON ANYTHING.
OF COURSE, I WAS TO YOUNG TO KNOW ANY OF THAT.
NOW THAT I LOOK AGAIN, THIS PLACE IS HUGE
UNREASONABLE COMMANDS ...
FOR THE MOST PART...
MY NEW MASTER'S ...
YES, MISS FARNEZE.
ANYTHING I SAY...
YOU DO.
HOLDING THAT THOUGHT...
SHE HAD RELEASED ME FROM MY MISERABLE EXISTENCE.
WERE EASILY BORNE.
BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T FIND YOURSELF ON THE SHARP END OF ONE OF HER MOODS.
SHE EVEN SET ONE POOR GIRL'S CLOTHES ON FIRE WITH HER STILL IN THEM.
EVERYONE ELSE WE'VE TAKEN ON TO SERVE HER HAS FLED RIGHT QUICK ON ACCOUNT OF HER DISPOSITION.
YOU COULD HAVE BROKE A FEW BONES
YOU SAID YOU FELL OFF A HORSE?
YOU'RE HOLDING UP WELL, THING CONSIDERING.
POOR

THIS LITTLE TYRANT
WAS VIEWED BY EVERYONE WITH DISGUST AND ANGER, LIKE A BOIL ABOUT TO POP.
SHE GREW UP THAT WAY WITH GOOD REASON.
HER FATHER, THE LORD OF VENDEMION, WAS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT HIS WORK THAT HE RARELY, IF EVER, CAME HOME.
HER MOTHER HAD NO TIME FOR HER DAUGHTER, SPENDING EVERY WAKING MOMENT PARTYING.
PARENTAL AFFECTION...
MANIFESTED ITSELF ONLY IN A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS THAT THREATENED TO BURY HER AT ANY MOMENT.
SHE WAS LET OUT TO PASTURE IN THE HALLS OF THE MANSION.

WHERE I'D GROWN UP WITH MY MOTHER.

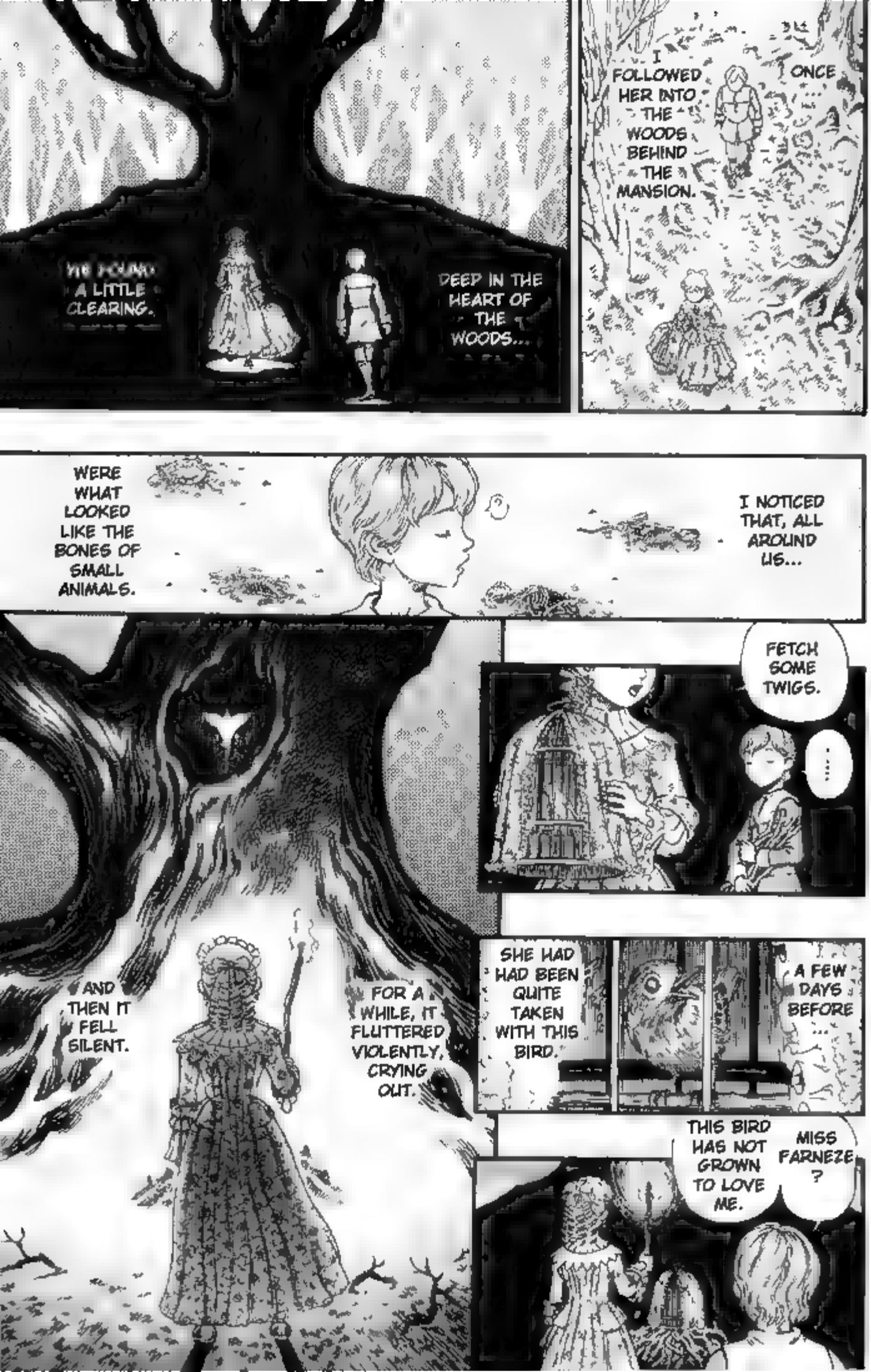
IT REMINDED ME OF THAT GLOOMY RUN-DOWN HOME...

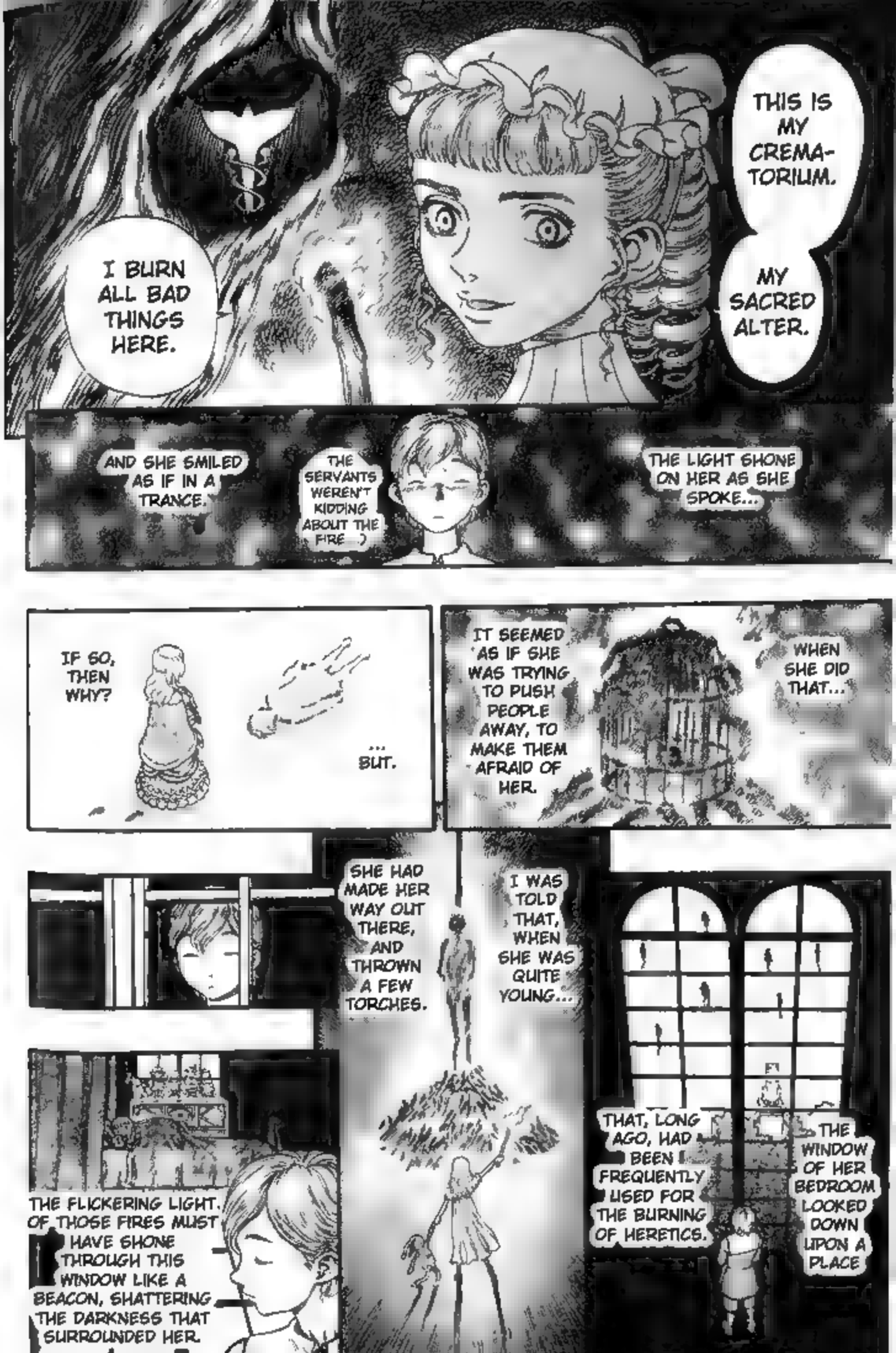


HER ACT OF COMPASSION HAD NOT BEEN JUST CALCULATED; SHE MAY HAVE SENSED THAT I GAVE OFF THE SAME SMELL AS HER.

ONE NIGHT THERE CAME A STORM.
ALL RIGHT? YOU STAY RIGHT THERE ALL NIGHT LONG AND HOLD MY HAND.
CER-TAINLY.
EEEK! NOOO!
MISS FARNE ZE, CALM YOUR-SELF!
I DON'T SEE ...
DO SOME-THING ABOUT THAT THUNDER
OH NO!
THE WINDOW!
MISS FARNEZE, WHERE ARE YOU...?
MISS FARNE ZE!

ROUND AND ROUND LIKE SHE WAS DANCING, CRYING OUT IN A VOICE THAT WAS NEITHER A SHRIEK NOR A LAUGH.
INTO THE STORM SHE RAN.
IT WAS AS IF SHE HAD BEEN POSSESSED
!?
MISS FARNEZE!
A STORM!
I CAN BE A STORM TOO!
HER ABNORMAL ACTIONS...
DROVE EVERYONE ELSE AWAY.


WE FOUND A LITTLE CLEARING.
DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE WOODS...
I FOLLOWED HER INTO THE WOODS BEHIND THE MANSION.
ONCE ...
WERE WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE BONES OF SMALL ANIMALS.
I NOTICED THAT, ALL AROUND US...
FETCH SOME TWIGS.
.....
AND THEN IT FELL SILENT.
FOR A WHILE, IT FLUTTERED VIOLENTLY, CRYING OUT.
SHE HAD HAD BEEN QUITE TAKEN WITH THIS BIRD.
A FEW DAYS BEFORE ...
THIS BIRD HAS NOT GROWN TO LOVE ME.
MISS FARNEZE ?


I BURN ALL BAD THINGS HERE.
THIS IS MY CREMA-TORIUM.
MY SACRED ALTER.
AND SHE SMILED AS IF IN A TRANCE.
THE SERVANTS WEREN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE FIRE ;)
THE LIGHT SHONE ON HER AS SHE SPOKE...
IF SO, THEN WHY?
... BUT.
IT SEEMED AS IF SHE WAS TRYING TO PUSH PEOPLE AWAY, TO MAKE THEM AFRAID OF HER.
WHEN SHE DID THAT...
SHE HAD MADE HER WAY OUT THERE, AND THROWN A FEW TORCHES.
I WAS TOLD THAT, WHEN SHE WAS QUITE YOUNG...
THAT, LONG AGO, HAD BEEN FREQUENTLY USED FOR THE BURNING OF HERETICS.
THE WINDOW OF HER BEDROOM LOOKED DOWN UPON A PLACE
THE FLICKERING LIGHT OF THOSE FIRES MUST HAVE SHONE THROUGH THIS WINDOW LIKE A BEACON, SHATTERING THE DARKNESS THAT SURROUNDED HER.

YES, FATHER.
THIS IS A BUSINESS CONVERSATION.
WAIT, FARNEZE.
FATHER.
ONE SNOWY DAY, THE MASTER RETURNED. THOUGH I HAD BEEN EMPLOYED FOR A FULL YEAR, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD LAID EYES ON HIM.
YOU'VE GOT MUCH NEWER TOYS THAT THAN. NOW GO ON AND LEAVE US BE.
THROW IT AWAY.
MM?
WHAT'S THAT RAGGEDY DOLL?
EH?
FATHER.
YES....
MISS FARNEZE?
IT SEEMED TO MEAN A LOT TO HER.
FARNEZE HAD PESTERED HER FATHER INTO BUYING IT FOR HER.
MANY, MANY YEARS AGO, ON THE ONLY TRIP THEY EVER TOOK AS A FAMILY...
THE SERVANTS HAD TOLD ME ABOUT THAT RABBIT.
GO AWAY.
FAR NE...
.....

BURN YOU TOO.
OR I'LL ...
BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID, SHE FRIGHTENED EVERYONE NEAR HER.
BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID SHE HURT PEOPLE. BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID SHE PUSHED THEM AWAY.
SHE WAS AFRAID. LEFT ALL ALONE IN THAT ENORMOUS PRISON...
THEY ADAPT TO THEIR LIVES, AND BURY THEMSELVES.
BEFORE A CHILD REACHES OUT FOR HAPPINESS ...
THEY CAN NO LONGER SEE THEMSELVES.
UNTIL, BEFORE THEY KNOW IT...
COVERED IN SNOW.
IN THE MAZE...

YES, SIR?
WHAT'S THAT AROUND YOUR NECK?
AND THEN ONE DAY, MY MASTER STOPPED ME IN THE HALL.
INSIDE WAS A TINY IMAGE OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER, IN THEIR YOUTH.
AH, I THOUGHT SO.
I THOUGHT HE WAS ABOUT TO ACCUSE ME OF HAVING STOLEN IT.
THIS, SIR?
LET ME SEE IT CLOSER...
I WAS MEETING HIM.
AND NOW...
PERHAPS IT SHOULD HAVE.
AH, SO THIS IS HIM...
THIS DID NOT CAUSE ANY PARTICULAR EMOTIONAL REACTION.

WAS RATHER A JOLT.
BUT THE KNOWLEDGE THAT FARNEZE WAS MY HALF-SISTER...
HE SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY HE COULD AFFORD TO RECOGNIZE THE PRODUCT OF HIS MISTRESS, ME, AND RISK INFLAMING EVERYTHING INTO A TORRENT OF USELESS VIOLENCE.
HE SAID THAT THE THREE MALE HEIRS TO THE VENDEMION FAMILY -- MY BROTHERS -- WERE ALREADY ENGAGED IN A BATTLE OVER THE SUCCESSION.
SHOULD I TELL MY MOTHER ?
AND WHAT ...
AND SEE THAT I WAS RAISED IN A MANNER BEFITTING MY STATUS AS SUCH.
HOWEVER, IF I WOULD PROMISE TO KEEP MY BIRTH A SECRET, HE WOULD BESTOW A NOBLE RANK UPON ME...
AND SO MY LIPS WERE SEALED.
JUST THAT.
MY POOR MOTHER...
THANKS TO GOD...
BUT EVEN THIS MUCH WAS FAR MORE THAN EITHER OF US HAD EVER HOPED TO FIND.

BUT I'M TOLD THAT YOUR PRESENCE HAS BEEN A GODSEND TO THE REST OF THE HELP.
TO BE HONEST, I'M SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO DO WITH FARNEZE. WHEN I'M AROUND, SHE ALWAYS FEIGNS INNOCENCE.
HE SPOKE WITH NO COMPUNCTIONS, DESPITE HAVING SPOKEN TO HER BUT ONCE THIS YEAR.
VERY WELL.
I ACCEPTED MY FATHER'S CONDITIONS ...
IN THE HOPES THAT I MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS MANSION.

BUT PERHAPS WE EACH FELT A SLIGHT WARMTH IN THE OTHER.
THE TWO OF US HAVE NOT THE POWER TO MELT THE SNOW MOUNTING UP UPON US.

SNOW AND FIRE
(CONCLUSION)

BERSERK

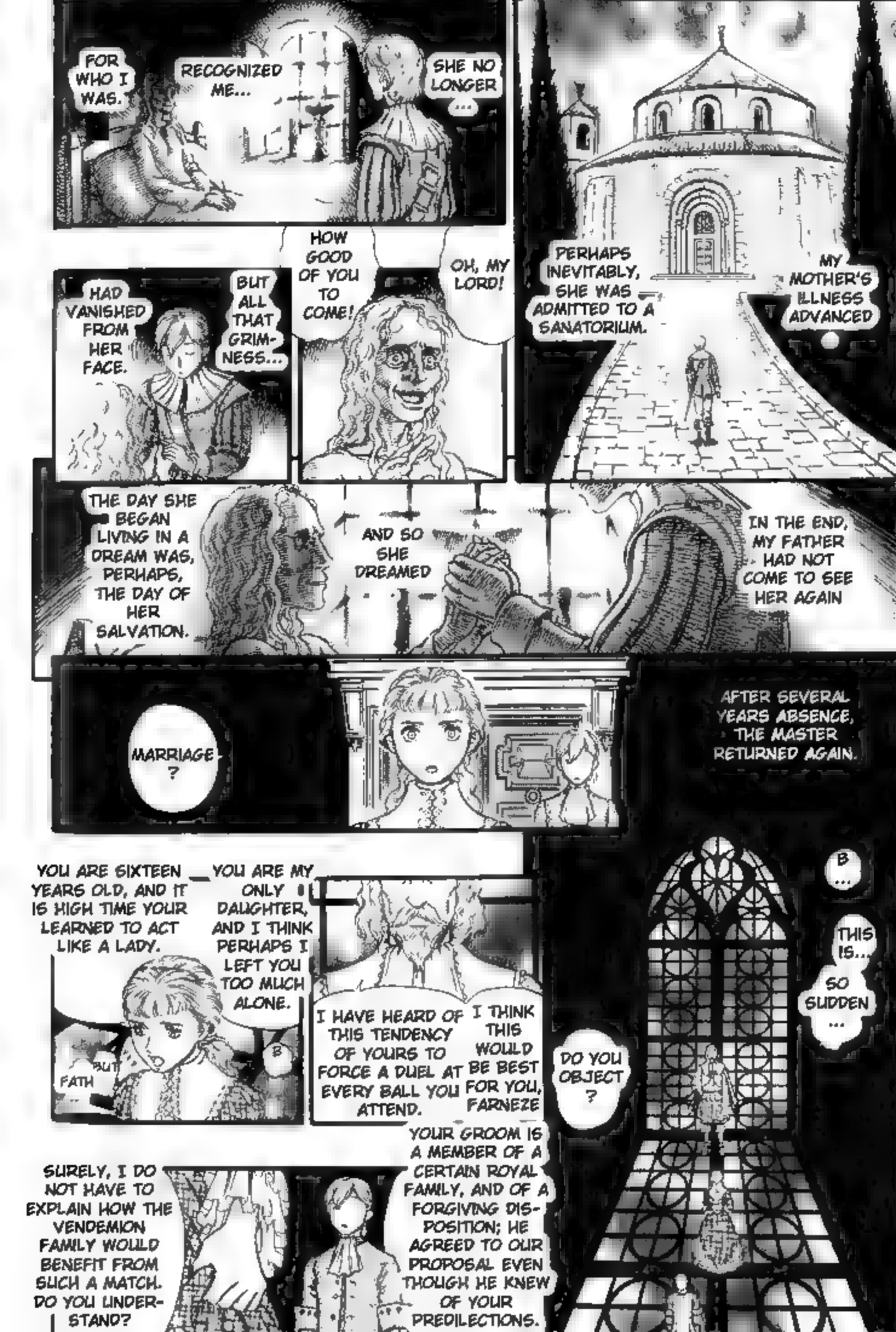
AND BEAR STRANGE FRUIT.
AND THEN ONE DAY THEIR BRANCHES ...
BEGAN TO REACH OUTSIDE THEIR LITTLE GARDEN
TIME TRICK-LED INTO THE MAZE.
BENEATH THE HEAPS OF SNOW, TWO LITTLE SEED-LINGS WRITHED, AND SNARLED, BUT STILL GREW.
SERPICO, COME, DANCE.
NO THANKS
MISS FARNEZE...
MISS FARNEZE, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO TAKE THIS DANCE WITH ME...
I TOO WOULD BE HONORED, MISS

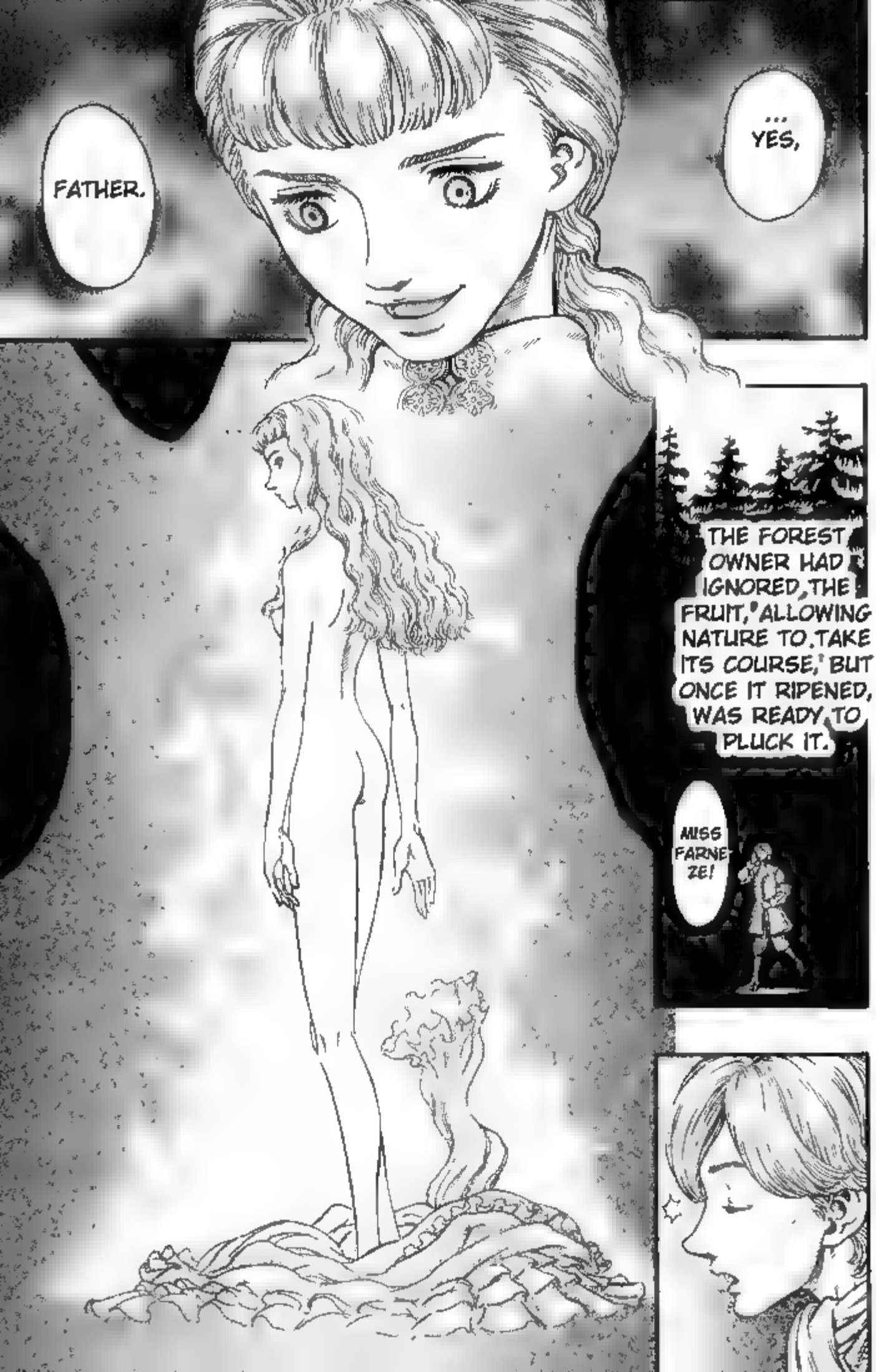
IT'S HOPELESS.
SHE'S FAR TOO CHOOSEY.
WE'RE ALL HERE TO GET CLOSER TO HER.
EAGER TO GET BENEATH THE UMBRELLA OF THE VENDEMION.
IS SHE JUST GOING TO DANCE WITH THAT ESCORT OF HERS ALL NIGHT AGAIN?
WHO IS THAT FELLOW ANYWAY?
!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
HE DOES APPARENTLY HAVE A TITLE, BUT HE WAS ORIGINALLY JUST HER LITTLE SERVANT BOY.
HE'S A COMMONER!?
IT SEEMS HER FATHER, LORD VENDEMION, IS HIS GUARDIAN. HE CERTAINLY SEEMS GOOD AT INSINUATING HIMSELF, AT ANY RATE.
MISS FARNEZE?
I DEMAND A DUEL!
FAR...
AN INSULT TO MY COMPANION IS AN INSULT TO ME.
BUT SINCE I AM A LADY, THE CHALLENGE SHALL BE MET BY THE ONE DIRECTLY INSULTED.
I THOUGHT SO..

I GUESS THIS IS A TIE, THEN...
A SPLENDID THRUST
お？
MISS FARNEZE, - I HUMBLY WITHDRAW MY OFFENDING WORDS
FOR A COMMONER, YOU ARE QUITE PROFICIENT. I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED SUCH FROM THE GUARD TO THE MISTRESS OF VENDEMION.
NOT AT ALL.
.....
THIS WOUND WAS LAST WEEK.
AND THIS THE MONTH BEFORE.

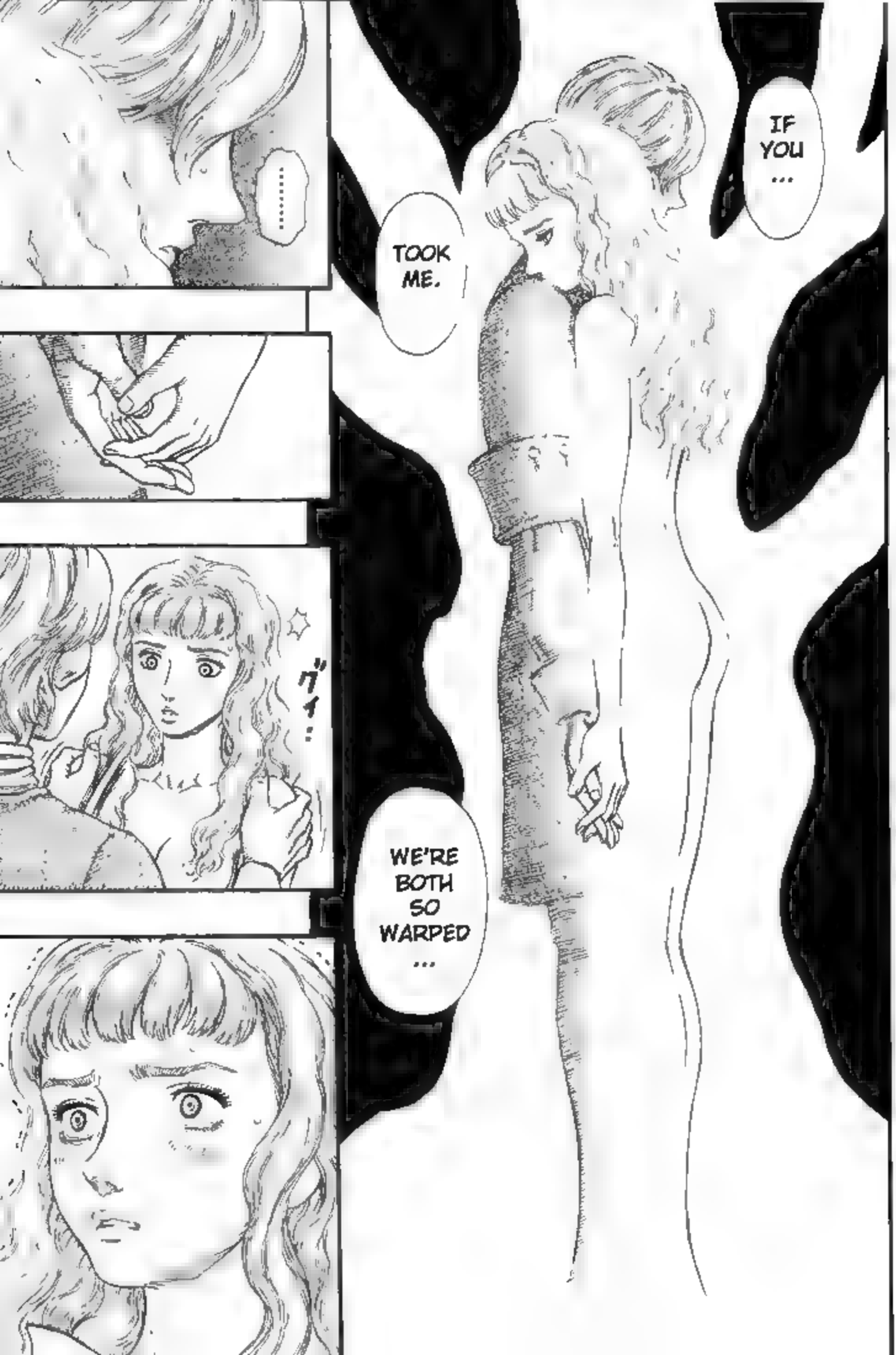
PERHAPS ...
YOU THINK TOO HIGHLY OF ME.
HMPH.
NO MATTER.
THE IDEA OF YOU AS A RAG DOLL...
IS STRANGELY COMPELLING.
WHY DO YOU HOLD BACK?
YOU COULD BEAT THESE FOOLS WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND YOUR BACK.
IF YOU GO ON LIKE THIS YOU'LL WIND UP LOOKING LIKE A RAG DOLL.
WHEN DID THIS START, I WONDER?
IN SOME WARPED FASHION, SHE BEGAN TO VIEW OUR RELATIONSHIP AS SOMETHING MORE THAN MASTER AND SERVANT.

SO PERHAPS SUCH DEVELOPMENTS WERE ONLY NATURAL.
THE TWO OF US WERE RAISED SIDE BY SIDE IN THE CRADLE OF THAT LITTLE GARDEN...
THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE MISS FARNEZE'S HONOR WITHOUT MAKING WAVES.
MY UPBRINGING ON THESE STREETS TAUGHT ME OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT REVENGE IS A FOOLISH THING THAT CAUSES NOTHING BUT MORE REVENGE.
STREET URCHINS OF THE HOLY CITY.
THAT YEAR YOU OFTEN SAW THEM...


FOR WHO I WAS.
RECOGNIZED ME...
SHE NO LONGER ...
PERHAPS INEVITABLY, SHE WAS ADMITTED TO A SANATORIUM.
MY MOTHER'S ILLNESS ADVANCED
HAD VANISHED FROM HER FACE.
BUT ALL THAT GRIM-NESS...
HOW GOOD OF YOU TO COME!
OH, MY LORD!
THE DAY SHE BEGAN LIVING IN A DREAM WAS, PERHAPS, THE DAY OF HER SALVATION.
AND SO SHE DREAMED
IN THE END, MY FATHER HAD NOT COME TO SEE HER AGAIN
MARRIAGE ?
AFTER SEVERAL YEARS ABSENCE, THE MASTER RETURNED AGAIN.
B ...
THIS IS... SO SUDDEN ...
DO YOU OBJECT ?
YOU ARE SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, AND IT IS HIGH TIME YOUR LEARNED TO ACT LIKE A LADY.
YOU ARE MY ONLY DAUGHTER, AND I THINK PERHAPS I LEFT YOU TOO MUCH ALONE.
B
BUT FATH ...
I HAVE HEARD OF THIS TENDENCY OF YOURS TO FORCE A DUEL AT EVERY BALL YOU ATTEND.
I THINK THIS WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU, FARNEZE
YOUR GROOM IS A MEMBER OF A CERTAIN ROYAL FAMILY, AND OF A FORGIVING DIS-POSITION; HE AGREED TO OUR PROPOSAL EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW OF YOUR PREDILECTIONS.
SURELY, I DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN HOW THE VENDEMION FAMILY WOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH A MATCH. DO YOU UNDER-STAND?


FATHER.
...YES,
THE FOREST OWNER HAD IGNORED THE FRUIT, ALLOWING NATURE TO TAKE ITS COURSE, BUT ONCE IT RIPENED, WAS READY TO PLUCK IT.
MISS FARNEZE!

!
FAR ...
I WON'T ...
I WON'T LEAVE HERE.
OUT THERE ...
I CAN'T LIVE ANY-WHERE BUT HERE.
UNLESS ...
YOU WERE TO RUN AWAY WITH ME...


……
IF YOU …
TOOK ME.
グィ…
WE'RE BOTH SO WARPED …

OF ALL THE YOKES THAT BOUND US...

WHY WAS IT I COULD NOT RUN AWAY THEN?

FATHER'S

MOTHER'S

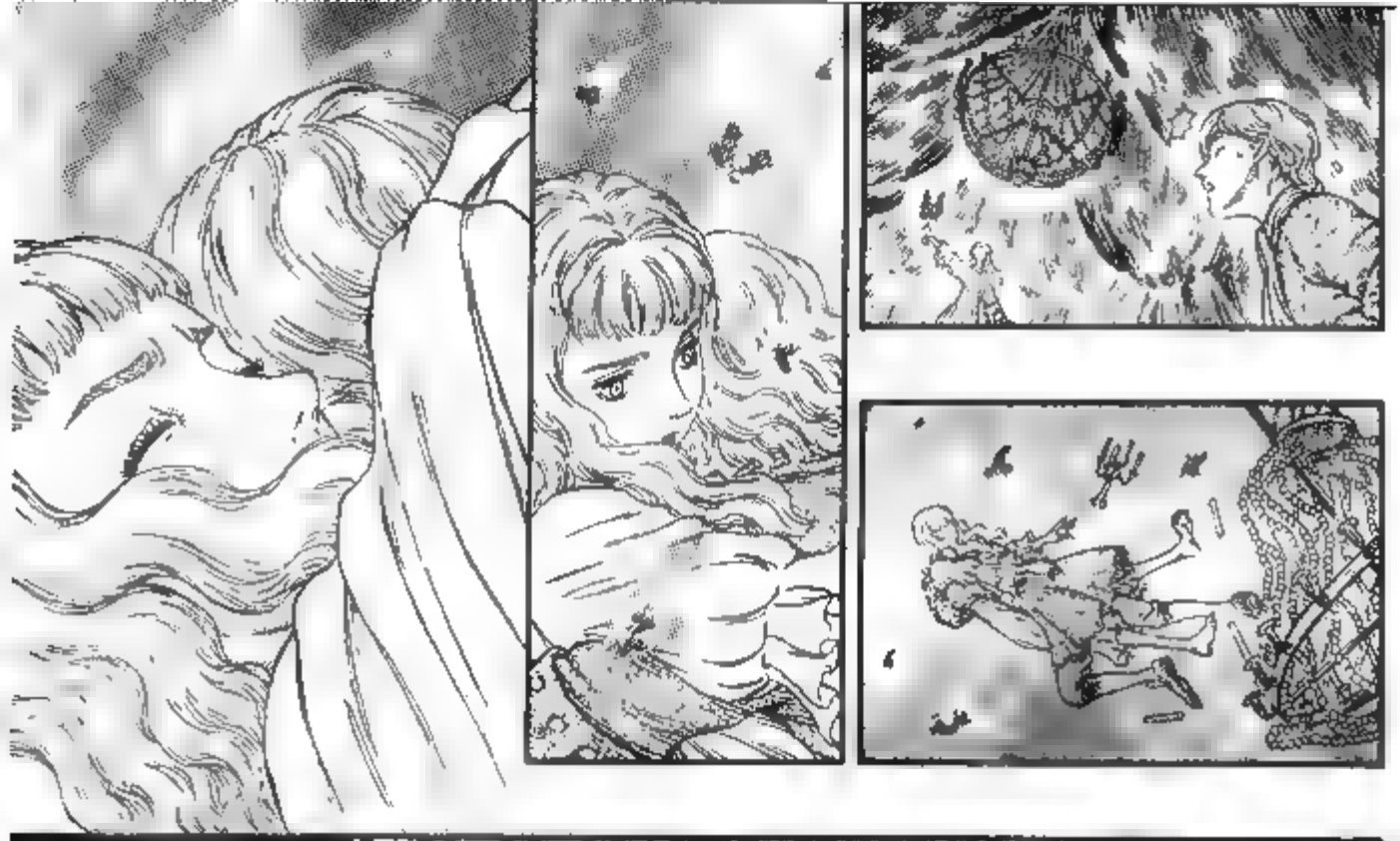
SIBLING'S...

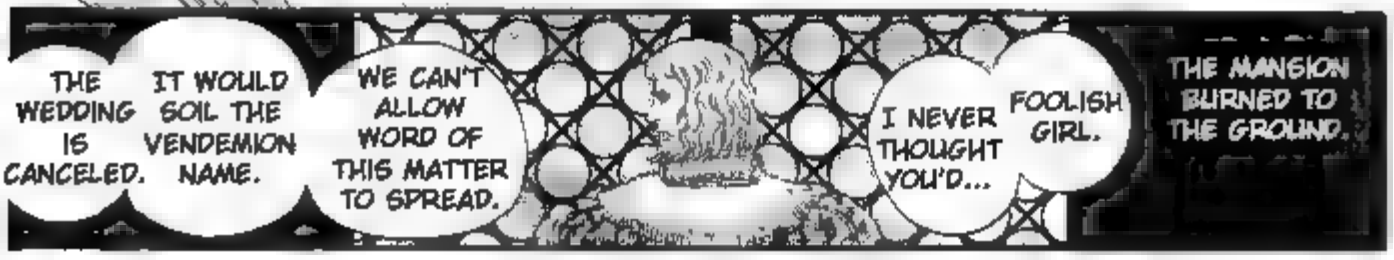
THE MANSION ...!

THE MISTRESS HAS GONE MAD!

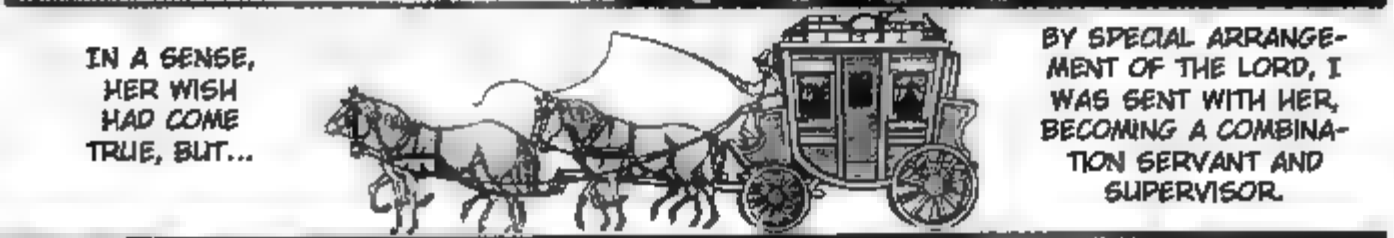
FIRE!

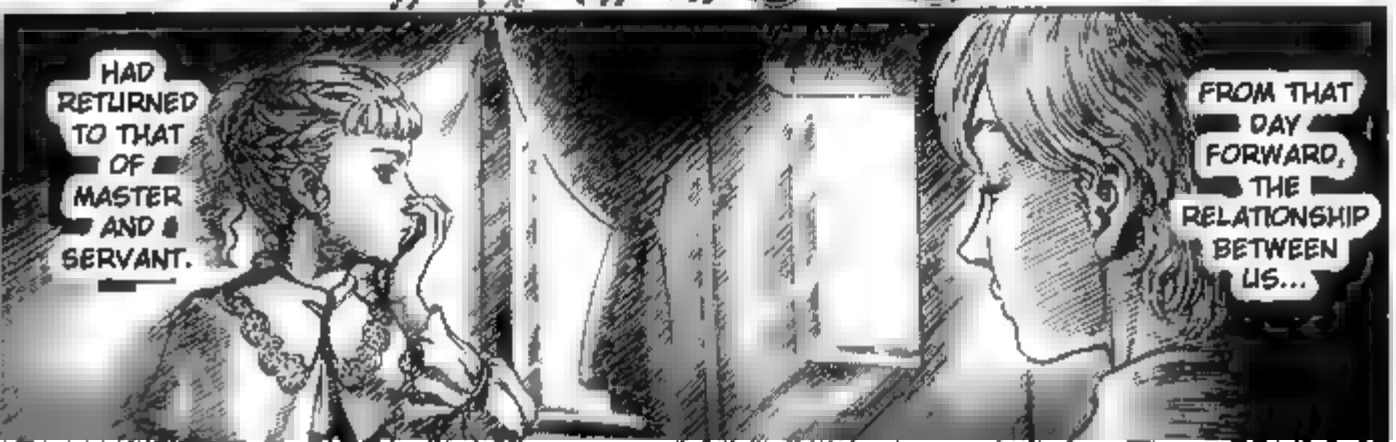
!




THE WEDDING IS CANCELED.
IT WOULD SOIL THE VENDEMION NAME.
WE CAN'T ALLOW WORD OF THIS MATTER TO SPREAD.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D...
FOOLISH GIRL.
THE MANSION BURNED TO THE GROUND.

TAKE HER OFF MY HANDS.
THAT GIRL IS A DEVIL.
FARNEZE WAS SENT TO A CONVENT.


IN A SENSE, HER WISH HAD COME TRUE, BUT...
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE LORD, I WAS SENT WITH HER, BECOMING A COMBINATION SERVANT AND SUPERVISOR.


HAD RETURNED TO THAT OF MASTER AND SERVANT.
FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US...

DID NOT LEAVE HER IN PEACE.
BUT. THE VENDEMION NAME...!
DAYS PASSED IN PEACE-FUL PRAISE OF GOD.
MAY YOU SURPASS OUR EXPEC-TATIONS.
IT IS INDEED AN HONOR TO HAVE A DAUGHTER OF THE GREAT VEN-DEMION FAMILY IN THAT ROLE.
THE LEGENDS SAY THAT THE KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN MUST ALWAYS BE COM-MANDED BY A WOMAN, BUT...
THIS IS INDEED STRIK-ING.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
LIKE ANY KNIGHT, HE IS PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE FOR HIM.
FOR MATTERS REQUIRING EXPERIENCE, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN YOUR SECOND, SIR AZAN.
MM

HERETICS SET FIRE TO THE CHURCHES AND NOBLEMAN'S MANSIONS IN THE HOLY CITY.
BY CHANCE, THAT WINTER...
WE WERE SENT FORTH TO SUBJUGATE THE HERESY.
THOUGH THE KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN SERVED PRIMARILY AS A CEREMONIAL GUARD...
THAT IT LEFT HER SUPERIORS SPEECHLESS WITH ADMIRATION.
THIS LOOKED LIKE SUCH INTENSE DEVOTION TO DUTY...
SHE PLACED HERSELF RIGHT AT THE FRONT OF THE ARMY AS WE HUNTED THE HERETICS DOWN.
IT WAS AS IF FARNEZE HAD BEEN POSSESSED.
THAT BUILDING! COMPANY CHARGE!
.....

LIT BY THE LIGHT OF THE FIRE.
ONCE AGAIN, THE SAME EXPRESSION...
SHE HAD FOUND HER PLACE IN LIFE.
PERHAPS
BURNED WITHIN HER HEART.
FIRE ...
IT DOMINATED HER CHILDHOOD.

AND THE VATICAN DECLARED THEM HERETICS.

"IN GOD'S EYES, ARE WE NOT ALL EQUAL?" THEY CRIED.

THEY SIMPLY OBJECTED TO THE NOBLEMEN AND THE CHURCHES MONOPOLIZING THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD.

AND REGARDLESS OF THE TRUTH, THE FAMILY WERE THEN ANNIHILATED.

RATHER THAN LET A SINGLE HERETIC ESCAPE, ENTIRE FAMILIES WERE PUT TO TRIAL.

FEARING FOR THEIR STATUS AND POWER, THEY CRUSHED THEM UTTERLY.

WITH NOT ENOUGH FOOD TO LIVE ANOTHER DAY.

IMPOVERISHED, INDIGENT...

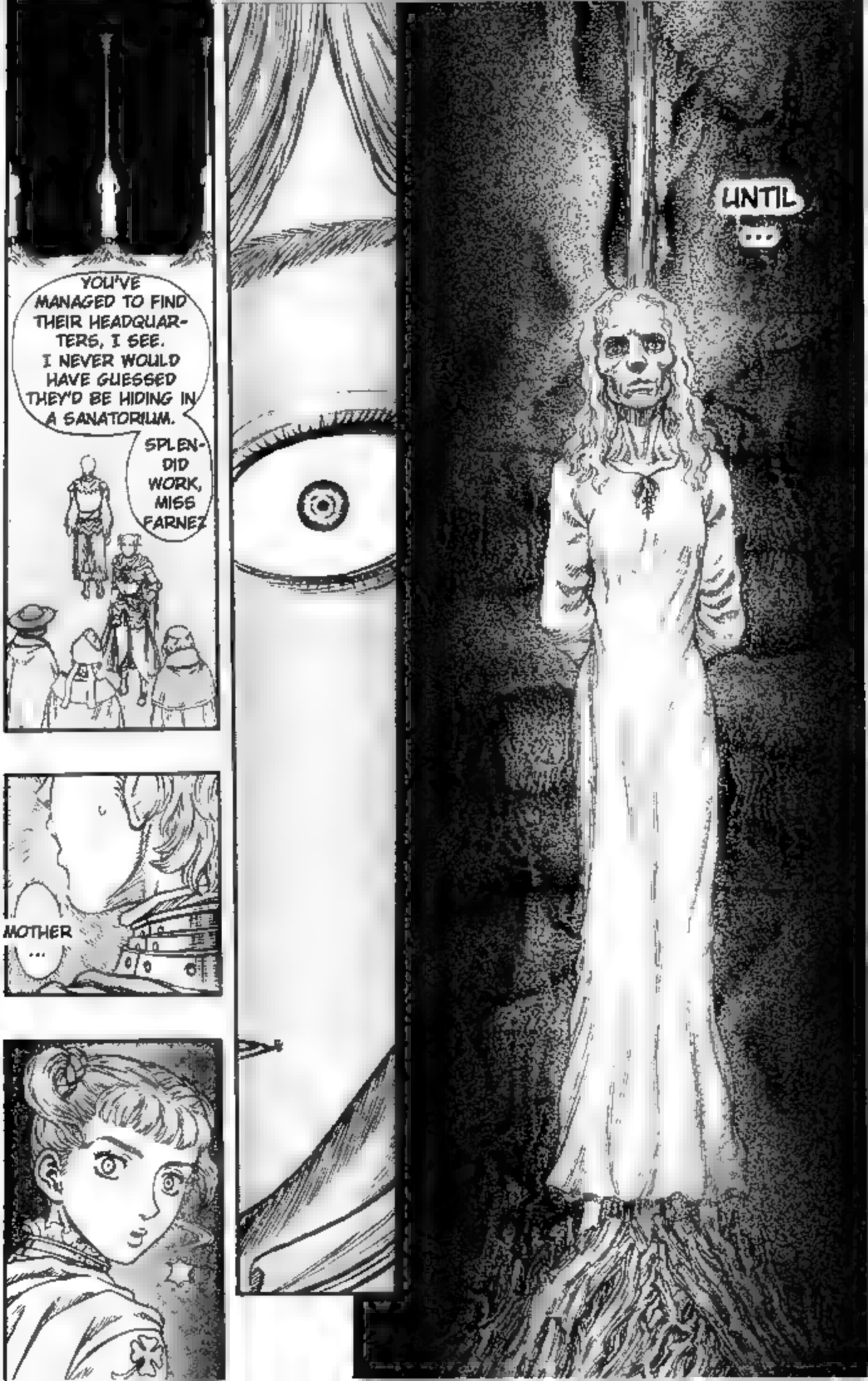
THOSE WE CAUGHT WERE ALMOST TO A MAN...

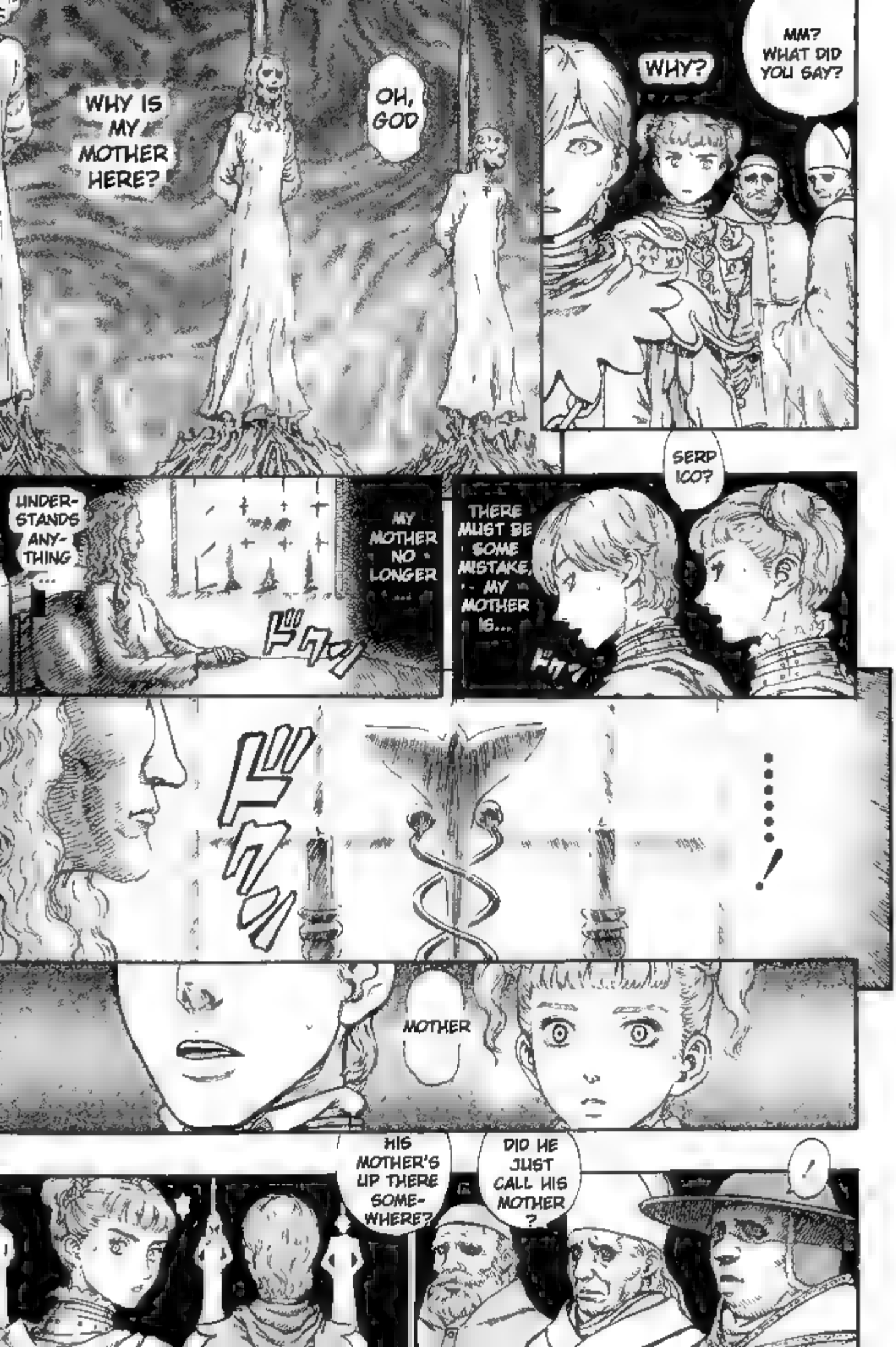
IS WHAT DOMINATED MY CHILDHOOD.

THIS...

NOTHING COULD SWAY MY HEART.

BUT NO MATTER HOW GHASTLY THE SPECTACLE I WITNESSED...


YOU'VE MANAGED TO FIND THEIR HEADQUARTERS, I SEE. I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THEY'D BE HIDING IN A SANATORIUM.
SPLENDID WORK, MISS FARNEZ
MOTHER ...
UNTIL ...


WHY IS MY MOTHER HERE?
OH, GOD
WHY?
MM? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
UNDER-STANDS ANY-THING ...
MY MOTHER NO LONGER ...
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE, MY MOTHER IS...
SERP ICO?
MOTHER
HIS MOTHER'S UP THERE SOME-WHERE?
DID HE JUST CALL HIS MOTHER ?
!

LEFT YOU ALONE TO GET AWAY FROM THERE?
BECAUSE I...
NO MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN COULD BE TAINTED WITH HERESY!
SHE IS NOT!
IS THIS MY FAULT?
BUT HE CER-TAINLY ...
IF THAT IS TRUE, THAN THIS COULD BE A SERIOUS PROBLEM.
I MET MY FATHER AND GAINED A TITLE JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS WANTED!
MY LORD !
OHH!
BUT WASN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED?
YOU WERE LONELY...AND SO YOU RETREATED INTO YOUR DREAM, CLINGING TO GOD...
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, EH?
HAS THAT REALLY LEFT YOU WITH NOTHING BUT YOUR OWN MISERY?

IS THAT WHY?
I TRUST HE HAS DONE NOTHING TO DISGRACE YOUR NAME?
HAS MY SON SERVED YOU WELL?
BECAUSE I HATED YOU SO MUCH THAT I PRAYED FOR YOUR DEATH TO FREE MYSELF FROM THE YOKE OF YOUR EXISTENCE...

YOUR REVENGE ?
IS THIS...

YOU LIGHT HER.

FAR ...

THAT SHE IS NOT YOUR MOTHER.
SHOW US THE PROOF ...
SWEAR TO IT AGAIN.
I AM YOUR MASTER
YOUR ONLY MASTER.
UNTIL NOW ...
AND FROM NOW ON.
WE BURIED SOMETHING.
THE TWO OF US...

WE WERE SET LOOSE FROM SOME-THING ...
WE BURNED SOME-THING ...
WE WERE BOUND BY SOME-THING.

WE LEAVE OUR FOOT-PRINTS.
ON THE SNOW...
MISS FARNEZE IS CHASING THE BLACK SWORDSMAN
AS IF HE WERE A FIRE THAT CAN MELT AWAY ALL THE SNOW.
WE'VE ESCAPED THE MAZE I NEVER THOUGHT TO LEAVE...
AND NOW JOURNEY TO DISTANT LANDS BENEATH THE OPEN SKIES.
IT'S DOWN TO FLURRIES. LET'S PROCEED.
WINTER, THREE YEARS LATER.
THAT MANSION ...
AND THAT HOLY CITY...
ARE PROBABLY STILL BURIED BENEATH SNOW.